Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-075
Tuesday
19 April 1994

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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-075 *19 April 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

PLO, Israeli Negotiators Continue Cairo Meetings

Sha'th Assails Rabin Over Delays

JN1804172894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Apr 94 p 6

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo]

[Text] Chief Palestinian negotiator Dr. Nabil Sha'th has warned that he who does respect the dates in the agreements that he has signed does not adhere to the texts of these agreements, and accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of going too far in his attempt to ignore the dates, saying this violates the commitments by which we are determined to abide.

Sha'th told AL-HAYAH that any agreement takes place between two sides, and we should reach an agreement within two or three weeks at most. [sentence as published]

He expressed the Palestinian side's fear that Rabin may delay the deadline from 15 May to a later date, and said: We are supposed to fix a date and to stick to it.

Sha'th reiterated the call on the U.S. Administration to pay its role as a sponsor of the peace process, and to adhere to its stated positions, and said: We are determined to continue the negotiations.

He described U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's expected visit to the region later this month as important.

On the Hadera operation that took place yesterday, he said: It is painful that actions of killing in Gaza, Hebron, 'Afula, and Hadera continue and that innocents, whether they are Palestinians or Israelis, are killed without any reason other than that no applicable just peace has been reached.

He said the operation should encourage an expedited peace agreement in order to protect the innocents on both sides.

Answering a question on a statement by Military Intelligence Commander General Uri in which he said negotiating delegation members Muhammad Dahlan and Faysal al-Husayni, among others, are nominees to replace Palestinian President 'Arafat, Sha'th accused Israel of trying to instigate differences among the Palestinian personalities and said: This is no more than an attempt to instigate 'Arafat in an exposed and lowly manner against his men.

Sha'th denied that there is agreement with Israel on supplying the Palestinian police with six helicopters, two of which will be placed at the disposal of President 'Arafat, and said: There is no such agreement.

He denied that there is a plan to convene a meeting between 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Bucharest tomorrow.

Sha'th: 30,000 To Enter Gaza, Jericho

JN1604203894 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Nabil Sha'th, chief Palestinian negotiator to the PLO-Israeli talks, has said that within a week of the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement 6,500-7,000 military and police personnel will enter Gaza and Jericho as the backbone of a Palestinian security force.

In statements to the Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM published [words indistinct] that considering that their families will accompany them, a total of 30,000 Palestinians will enter Gaza and Jericho within a week. Most of these, he noted, belong to the refugees who were displaced in 1948. Together with them will also enter the entire political Palestinian leadership [passage indistinct] to look into the return of the persons displaced in 1967.

Sha'th emphasized that the presence of a national authority inside will lead to the institution of some symbols of sovereignty like measures related to economic development. He indicated that the donor countries that have decided to contribute financial grants toward the development of Gaza and Jericho are waiting for the signing of the accord and the installation of the Palestinian authority. Economic development and water, he said, will be the most pressing issues for the Palestinian authority. If a solution is not found to the water issue, there will be a retrenchment in the agricultural sector. We will rely more heavily on pollution free modern technology, tourism, and trade, said Sha'th.

'Key Issues' Holding Up Talks Noted

NC1804114694 Paris AFP in English 1116 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Report by Maher Chmaytelli]

[Text] Cairo, April 18 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO are working to resolve three key issues holding up the launch of self-rule for Gaza and Jericho, chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sha'th said here Monday [18 April].

"There are issues without which we cannot sign an agreement: jurisdiction, water, prisoners," he told reporters as negotiations resumed here.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation rejected an Israeli compromise proposal on the scope of Palestinian jurisdiction in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, Sha'th had said late Sunday after the latest round of talks opened.

Israel proposed that Palestinian jurisdiction extend to all non-Israelis and non-Palestinians, apart from those visiting Jewish settlements.

Sha'th said Israel also proposed that a Palestinian charged with a crime against an Israeli should be tried before a Palestinian court if he is arrested in the autonomous areas but otherwise before an Israeli court.

Israel had initially wanted to maintain jurisdiction over all foreigners as well as over any Palestinian charged with a crime against an Israeli.

Sha'th charged that Israel's position on jurisdiction was "a clear violation of the Declaration of Principles," referring to the historic autonomy accord signed on September 13 by Israel and the PLO.

"From our point of view, the only (areas) out of our jurisdiction are Israelis and settlements," he said.

The PLO has also put the question of prisoners back on the agenda, following an announcement by both sides last week that 5,000 Palestinians would be released in two stages within three weeks of the signing of an overall accord.

Sha'th had said the remaining 5,000 Palestinians held in Israeli jails would be discussed at future negotiations on the autonomy for the rest of the West Bank and on elections for Gaza and Jericho.

But Muhammad Dahlan, the PLO delegate in charge of the prisoners' dossier, said Monday that the issue was still on the table. The Palestinians want the release of 8,300 prisoners, he said.

The move follows talks last week between the PLO and the Palestinian Islamic militant group Hamas, a fierce opponent of the autonomy negotiations, on coordination in the occupied territories.

Israel has turned down PLO calls for a general amnesty and refuses to free prisoners of militant groups such as Hamas, which claimed responsibility for two bomb blasts earlier this month that killed 12 Israelis.

On the question of water-sharing, the Palestinians have reported progress.

"We have the right to control the water resources of Gaza and Jericho, as well as the right to manage (its distribution)," said Jamil al-Tarifi, a Palestinian delegate to water talks.

"It's true that the Jewish settlements will not be under our authority but we want to know what quantities of water they will draw," he said, adding that the settlements had 22 of the deepest wells out of the total of 500 in Gaza.

"The Israeli positions are starting to coming nearer to ours, and we hope to reduce the differences further today," he said.

In Muscat, officials and experts from more than 40 countries and organisations held a second day of talks Monday to discuss a formula for water sharing in the Middle East, with delegates speaking of progress.

The talks, part of the multilateral track of Middle East peace talks, were attended by Israel, its Arab neighbours, Turkey and other parties.

Remarks by 'Sources' Cited

NC1804111394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators resumed their meetings this morning with a meeting of the Security Committee cochaired by Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq Yahya and General Effin Agmon, deputy chief of the Israeli Army's planning department [name and title as received].

General 'Uzi Dayan, chief of the Israeli Army's planning department, who was heading his country's delegation to the talks, left Cairo last night for a day in Israel. He is expected to return to Cairo tonight to join the talks.

According to Palestinian sources, the Legal Affairs Committee will resume its talks today. The committee will examine two working papers, a Palestinian and an Israeli, concerning the legal and judicial powers of the Palestinian authorities in the self-rule areas.

Khalid al-Qidrah, a member of the Palestinian negotiating team, yesterday told MENA that the paper Israel presented at the end of the last round is "completely unacceptable."

According to Palestinian sources, members of the Civilian Affairs Committee will meet today in subcommittees to discuss water, communications, and other unresolved issues. Experts from both sides will attend the meetings of the subcommittee on water, the same sources said.

The subcommittee on communications will mainly discuss the frequencies that the Palestinian authorities will use for police, communications, and other purposes. The two sides agreed on measures concerning the creation of a Palestinian radio and television service, according to the same sources.

The Palestinian sources said that a subcommittee emanating from the Legal Affairs Committee will begin working today on the draft of a final agreement. The same sources said that it is too early to speak of progress in the talks as they have just started.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th and General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations respectively, held a private meeting this morning in which they discussed issues concerning this round of talks, which will last until 21 April.

Developments in Talks Updated

JN1804175494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Report from the "With the Events" feature]

[Text] The Israeli-Palestinian talks within the context of the Security and Civilian Affairs Committees continued in Cairo today. To learn the latest developments in this regard, let us move to our correspondent 'Umar Zaydani [in Cairo]:

[Begin recording] [Zaydani] The security talks held between Israel and the PLO today primarily addressed the issue of security, prisoners, and the repatriation of deportees. Muhammad Dahlan [the PLO delegate in charge of the prisoners' issue] informed us that the Palestinians are demanding the release of 8,300 prisoners. Last week, it was agreed that only 5,000 prisoners would be released. The talks have continued regardless of the statements being made by either Hamas or the Israelis, Dahlan noted.

Reports have revealed a willingness on the part of Hamas to halt violence in return for a halt to the pursuit of Hamas personnel by the Israeli security authorities.

[Dahlan] I am not interested in what Hamas or the Israelis are saying. We are negotiating the release of all prisoners.

[Zaydani] [Words indistinct]

[Dahlan] No, there are no [words indistinct] or (?bargains) over the prisoners currently under way. The number of the prisoners whose release we demand stands at 8,300.

[Zaydani] Muhammad Dahlan also informed us that six deportees will be repatriated tomorrow, and 10 others will be repatriated on 21 April. Among the deportees who will return from Libya and Algeria are Salih Abu-Sa'id and Nasim al-Farrah.

Moreover, the Legal Committee resumed its meetings today. Progress was made in the deliberations of this committee. The Israelis submitted a working paper, whereas the Palestinians submitted another working paper during the deliberations of this committee. The two papers are currently being addressed, as Khalid al-Qidrah, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Legal Committee, said:

[Al-Qidrah] We cannot speak of differences right now. The Palestinian and Israeli working papers are being debated and negotiated. God willing, there is progress. I do not want to delve into details. But, indeed, there is progress.

[Zaydani] With regard to the negotiations on the launching of a Palestinian radio and television station, these negotiations were interrupted for some time soon after they had been started. This was because the Palestinian side backed down on an initial agreement reached in this regard in Cairo in February.

Radwan Abu-'Ayyash [Palestinian negotiator in radio and television affairs] left the negotiations for consultations with Nabil Sha'th. As for (Shlomo Vax), he informed (Gabi Johar) of the differences with the Palestinians. These differences concern the extent and scope of the frequencies to be used by the Palestinians. They also concern the range of these frequencies. Unless the Palestinian back down on these demands, the Palestinians will not have a Palestinian radio and television station. A source close to the Israeli delegation informed us that Israel is willing to meet the Palestinian demands regarding all that concerns the radio and television station. The Israelis are also willing to meet demands regarding frequencies for civilian communication equipment and police communications equipment. However, the Palestinians also want frequencies for airports and ports, something not enshrined in the agreement. [end recording]

Correspondent Reports 'No Progress'

TA1804193294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] No progress was made in the Cairo talks today, our correspondent Moti Amir reports. The Palestinians presented a detailed working paper on water matters, and Israeli experts will go to Cairo tonight to study it. Differences surfaced in the subcommittee on communications and following the intervention of the delegation heads, the Palestinians withdrew their demand to reopen issues already agreed upon two months ago.

Muhammad Dahlan told our correspondent that six deportees would arrive in the Gaza Strip tomorrow, and another 10 on Friday. He noted that there has still not been any progress on the release of Palestinian detainees. He said Israel now agrees to release only 4,000 detainees although last week it agreed to free 5,000. The PLO is demanding the release of 8,300 detainees, including Hamas activists.

Sha'th Announces Some Progress Made

NC1904070094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings, has announced that some progress has been made in the talks currently taking place in Cairo on Palestinian autonomy, despite the fact that the Israeli side has refused to give total amnesty to all the Palestinian detainees. Sha'th clarified that the two sides have come close to reaching agreement over the powers of the Palestinian judiciary and other issues pertaining to air transportation, communications, and some security matters. He expected that concentration during the talks this week will be on important security and civilian matters dealing with Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and on the powers of Palestinian autonomy.

At the same time, Faysal al-Husayni, the prominent Palestinian figure in the occupied territories, warned that any delay in reaching agreement on implementing the Declaration of Principles will have negative repercussions. He expressed his belief that the situation in the occupied territories is very dangerous.

Israel Said To Agree to Detainees' Release

TA1904103294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians are continuing in Cairo today. Today's talks revolve around the release of the Palestinian detainees. A member of the Palestinian delegation said Israel has agreed to release all the detainees, including Hamas members, adding that the main argument revolves around the timetable for their release.

Our envoy in Cairo Moti Amir was told by a Palestinian source that Egypt will open a quasi-consulate in Jericho which will serve the residents of the Palestinian autonomous areas until an independent Palestinian state is established. According to the source, the consulate will be located in a building belonging to the Coptic church, upon the approval of the head of the Coptic church in Egypt.

Multilateral Water Talks Continue in Muscat

JN1804161394 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] The water resources working group within the multilateral talks stemming from the Middle East peace conference continued its meetings at the Muscat Intercontinental Hotel this morning.

The sultanate's delegation to this meeting was led by His Excellency Muhammad Bin-'Alawi al-Khusaybi, the Omani ambassador to Japan.

A source close to the meeting said the group will discuss the same issues on its agenda again today, including regional cooperation, administering water resources, and collecting data on water and water supplies.

The conferees have initially agreed to set up an international research center on sea water desalination in the sultanate. The center will try to coordinate research efforts in order to reduce the costs of sea water desalination technology, in order to enable the countries of the region to get fresh water at low cost, and to reduce dependence on declining quantities of surface and ground waters.

Talks Called 'Most Successful' Yet

NC1904103194 Paris AFP in English 0938 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Muscat, April 19 (AFP)—Delegates on Tuesday [19 April] hailed the latest round of Middle East water talks as the most successful since the discussions were launched more than two years ago.

The talks, part of the multilateral track of the peace process, were winding up Tuesday after bringing together representatives from 43 countries and organisations, including Israel and Arab states.

"It is the most successful round of talks by the water committee", an Arab delegate told AFP.

"Several useful studies were presented and the meeting yielded the first fruit of the negotiations: a desalination research centre in Oman".

Oman proposed setting up the centre at Sunday's opening session following a five month study with the help of international experts.

The centre would study ways of cutting the high cost of desalination which is sapping the resources of water-starved Gulf states.

Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, said it would benefit Arabs, Israel and other parties as some states outside the Gulf could opt for desalination in future to face growing water consumption.

Other projects being discussed are a meteorological centre, a water data bank and a regional water authority proposed by the United States and other Western countries.

Delegates said Japan and other industrial nations renewed pledges to support such projects and provide expertise and technical training.

The training would benefit Palestinians most as they are on the verge of managing their own water resources but lack the technology and experience, the delegates said.

"The United States, France, Japan, Germany and other industrial countries have assured us they will extend assistance in all fields pertaining to water", Palestinian chief delegate Riyad al-Khudayri told AFP on Tuesday.

He said the talks were gaining momentum now that Palestinians were creating their own water authority in line with the September 13 autonomy accord signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Western delegates described the Muscat disccusions as more constructive than previous meetings but admitted final agreement on water sharing needed time.

"Water is a vital and complicated issue and it has to do with politics" one delegate said. "All parties involved agree on the need for water cooperation but there are some differences on the extent and shape of this cooperation".

Bin-'Alawi opened the talks, the water committee's first in a Gulf state, with a call for cooperation to prevent potential conflict and bring regional states closer together.

Turkey, the only country in the region to enjoy a large water surplus, was actively involved in the Muscat discussions but it did not push its five-year-old proposal to supply Gulf states with sweet water through a multi-billion-dollar pipeline.

"We have made the proposal before and it is still in force because it was found feasible" a Turkish delegate said. "It's up to the Arabs now to decide if they want the project".

Gulf governments have turned down the offer on the grounds it is expensive and poses security risks. Conference sources said the Omani desalination research project implied the region wanted to remain dependent on the more secure desalination facilities, which provide them with nearly 70 percent of their sweet water needs.

Israeli deputy foreign minister Yosi Beilin is heading a team of nearly 20 officials and experts, the first time the Jewish state has sent an official delegation to a Gulf Arab country.

Jordan is taking part in the talks as an observer after boycotting negotiations in protest at naval interceptions off its coast by Western forces enforcing a United Nations embargo against neighboring Iraq.

Iran, another key regional country, stayed away because it is opposed to negotiations with Israel.

Syria and Lebanon are boycotting all multilateral talks. Delegates said Lebanon could be a key player in water activity in the region given its large but unexploited water resources.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Kuwaiti Envoy Dismisses Reported Iraqi Initiative

LD1804125294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 18 Apr—In a press statement published here today, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Egypt 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan, said the way to resolve the pending problems is

for Iraq to abide by all UN Secretary Council resolutions and the resolutions of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border demarcation committee.

Ambassador al-Bu'ayjan called on the Iraqi regime to deal with the case of Kuwaiti POW's case and missing persons through the Red Cross and to allow the latter to send a mission to visit Iraqi jails and detention centers. [passage omitted]

The ambassador pointed out that the Iraqi statements do not add anything new. In the past, the Iraqi regime also revoked the decision to annex Kuwait until a cease-fire is reached, but it then presented a memorandum to the UN Security Council, saying that revoking the annexation decision was taken under the then prevailing conditions and began to repeat the same story about the 19th governorate in its media and political publications.

Replying to a question on the suggestion that a Kuwaiti parliamentarian delegation be sent or that some figures should shuttle between Baghdad and Kuwait, Ambassador al-Bu'ayjan said Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has exerted great efforts in this respect and that such trips would be useless without a recognition of international resolutions.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Group Urges Lifting Arms Embargo on Bosnia

LD1904062694 Tehran IRNA in English 0617 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] New York, United Nations, April 19, IRNA—The Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OICCG) here Monday [18 April] called for the lifting of arms embargo on Bosnian Muslims and reaffirmation of their inherent right of self-defense.

In its statement issued after an urgent meeting on the situation in Gorazde, the OICCG on Bosnia-Herzegovina criticized the United Nations and the Security Council for failing to adopt effective measures against Serbs brutalities.

It said that the failure in undertaking steps against Serbs crimes has put into serious question the credibility of the secretariat, the Security Council and the credibility of the United Nations as a whole.

The statement also said that the OICCG has decided to call for an emergency session of the OIC and as a whole and for meeting of foreign ministers of the group in New York with a view to pursuing potential solutions to the Bosnian crisis which have thus far not been employed.

The OICCG further reaffirmed its support for the just struggles of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina to live in freedom and harmony and said it stood ever ready to assist the United Nations by way of troops and financial contribution to UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force].

Paper Reports Israeli Contacts With al-Jihad

NC1804151294 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 11 Apr 94 pp 1, 10

[Report by Khalid Salah and Yasir Zari']

[Text] Reliable sources have revealed some very important information to AL-'ARABI, which is being published for the first time, about a long series of contacts between Israel and the groups carrying out religious violence in Egypt during the last five years. Approximately 30 contacts have been monitored by the security service in this country.

AL-'ARABI has secured a letter confirming these contacts and asking the U.S. Embassy in Cairo to provide Israeli researchers and research centers with specialized information on the results of secret contacts with these groups, in particular with the al-Jihad organization.

Israeli attempts to contact these groups in Egypt started in 1989. These contacts used to take place under the slogan of information and press dialogues.

The Israeli researchers used to introduce themselves to the members of the religious groups as reporters for Western media organization. The following is what happened in a contact monitored by the Egyptian security service in the summer of 1989 with a student in the School of Agriculture at Cairo University: He was a prominent member of the Islamic group at the University. An Israeli researcher succeeded in introducing himself to the student as a correspondent for the German magazine DER SPIEGEL. Through this student, the Israeli researcher managed to meet a large number of members of the group who were also members of the Student Union.

In 1990 an Israeli journalist from the magazine HA'OLAM HAZE visited Imbabah accompanied by a member of the Islamic group. The latter knew the real identity of the journalist. The Israeli journalist met in Imbabah with a large number of leading figures from the group and learned about their activities there. This journalist resided in Egypt many weeks during which he managed, through another member of the Islamic group who at that time was training to become a journalist in a newspaper that labels itself Islamic, to meet with leaders of the group in the Governorate of al-Minya. He met with these leaders after a seminar that he attended with them at the Sudanese Student Union's headquarters in Cairo and after the sectarian sedition incidents in Abu Qurqas in al-Minya Governorate in 1991. A lawyer called M.W., who is also a member of the Islamic group, accompanied a number of Israeli researchers to the city of Abu Qurqas after he learned of their true identity. This caused a serious dispute between the leaders of the group in al-Minya regarding contacts with Israelis. In this dispute, one group defended contacts with the Israelis under the pretext that the call also targets the Jews since they are the People of the Book.

The document that AL-'ARABI has procured reveals an important aspect of the Israeli contacts with the religious groups in Egypt and the U.S.-Israeli cooperation in this field. In the summer of 1991 an Israeli researcher from the

Gustav Heineman Institute, which is part of Haifa University, held many meetings with members of the Islamic groups. He also met with a number of leaders of a group called the Husam al-Battuti group, which has seceded from the al-Jihad group in Bani Suwayf led by a man named Majdi Kamal. In this context, we have the "document," which is really a letter from the director of the Asian and African Studies Center of the Heineman Institute dated 5 September 1992 to an American researcher named Dr. Harold Marthuni from the University of California. The letter refers to the meetings mentioned earlier that the Israeli researcher held. The literal translation of the letter is as follows:

"Dear Dr. Harold, (5 September 1992)

"We thank you for the valuable documents you provided to the Israeli researchers in Cairo. In fact, we are looking for a different kind of cooperation. Our colleague Dr. Dick Bergman contacted some of these fundamentalists who took him to the home of one of them in the city of Bani Suwayf. They presented him with documents similar to your papers on the concept of judging the state authorities as heretical. However, our researchers doubted the results of all the contacts. This is why we asked our embassies to mediate with the U.S. Embassy in Cairo to inform us of the results of their contacts with the al-Jihad group in particular. We also hope for your cooperation in this framework. In addition, we hope you will place the study you are currently carrying out on the agenda of the special seminar we are holding in cooperation with your renowned university.

"Thank you

"[Signed] Gavri'el Warburg, director of the institute"

The value of the letter lies in the fact that it shows the tip of the iceberg on this subject. It notes the visit by one of the most famous Israeli researchers on Egyptian matters to Cairo. This researcher is Dick Bergman, the researcher at the African and Asian Studies Center of the Heineman Institute. His objective was to prepare a field study on the religious groups in Egypt.

The sources confirm that some of the reasons that prompted the Israeli researchers to doubt Bergman's results were the fact that some of the people he met with who belong to the Islamic groups confirmed that they might agree to accept Israel in the region as soon as they assume power. According to him, they consider the ruling regime to be further away from God than the Jews, since the Jews are the People of the Book.

The sources confirm that the Israelis were very careful about getting the largest amount of information possible from the Americans regarding their meetings with the religious groups in Egypt, especially after they learned that these contacts continued outside of Egypt after the contacts between these groups and the U.S. Embassy were revealed.

Proceeding from an American proposal, the Israelis organized a research roundtable in June 1993 at Haifa University. Four of the most prominent U.S. researchers specializing in studying the fundamentalist groups in the region and Egypt took part in this roundtable, in addition to Israeli researchers from the Gustav Heineman Institute.

The sources confirm that this roundtable went on for three days, during which they discussed and analyzed all the reports and U.S.-Israeli contacts with members of religious groups in Egypt. Researchers who participated in this roundtable explored the various scenarios that could be expected from the contacts and changes in behavior of the religious groups toward Israel should they assume power in Egypt.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Official Interviewed on Israeli Threats

JN1904064494 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 19-25 Apr 94 pp 24, 11

[Telephone interview with Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Political Bureau of Hamas, by Samaih al-Ma'ayitah; place and date not given]

[Text] [Al-Ma'ayitah] What has prompted the Zionist leadership to launch these threats against Jordan and Hamas?

[Abu-Marzuq] It is the Movement's basic and strong presence among the Palestinian people. The Movement's cadres and organizations are in the occupied territories. The presence outside these territories is natural, be it in the form of supporters, spokesmen, or official spokesmen in the Movement's name. It has political and information presence in most states of the region. However, as a result of his failure to suppress or confront the Movement or stop its armed operations, Rabin tried to hold external sides responsible for these actions so that the Israelis would not have great room for criticizing his policies and exposing his shortcomings and his inability to provide peace and security for them.

This is not the first time that Rabin has shifted the responsibility for his policies on to outside parties. When the soldier Toledano was kidnapped, Israel accused the United States of sponsoring Hamas leaders and accused Syria of sponsoring the Movement. Now it is directing these false accusations against Jordan. I must express my astonishment because the U.S. Administration supports these allegations and accusations while knowing that they are incorrect. The United States responded to Israeli's accusations in early 1993 denying the presence of any Hamas leaders on its territory and proved that the Movement's military operations are planned and executed inside Palestine. Here we must emphasize the following:

1. The Hamas Movement has confined its battle in Palestine as an occupied territory and we have the right to resist with all means available to us. The Movement has been committed to this.

2. Rabin's accusations reveal the enemy's inability to confront Hamas and its attempt to instigate our brothers against it.

3. The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam battalions have always announced their responsibility for their operations inside

Palestine by various means, such as leaving a leaflet at the site of the battle, announcing the operation by graffiti or through a loudspeaker, contacting news agencies, or distributing leaflets bearing the signature of the battalions. As for statements by its representatives abroad, they are merely comments and affirmations of the Movement's methods. This also happened after the recent operation.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] What is happening demonstrates the state of confusion in the Zionist enemy leadership. They cannot find a place or a Hamas group to retaliate against as they do in Lebanon against the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance. It is also a continuation of the series of pressures against Jordan to compel it to sign a separate peace agreement.

[Abu-Marzuq] Israel does not know where to strike at Hamas within its policy of deterrence. The Hamas Movement and military apparatus are in Palestine. They directed several blows at it in 1989, in late 1990, and in 1993 and were unable to limit the Movement's military activities. This created a crisis in the Zionist entity and this prompted it to choose Jordan as a means to shift responsibility to it. It is worth noticing that for the first time, Rabin and his Foreign Minister, Peres, appeared at press conference at the same time. Rabin's words were very strong in his capacity as minister of defense and interior, something which only made his failure worse. Peres' expressions were calmer because he knows that these threats are part of the political game.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] There are attempts to raise Jordanian fears concerning the seriousness of Hamas activity in the Jordanian arena. Some people try to substantiate these fears by citing the history of Jordan's relationship with PLO factions. Are these fears likely to materialize with regard to the Hamas Movement?

[Abu-Marzuq] We believe that the security and stability of any Arab country, particularly Jordan, plays a role in supporting Palestinian rights. On the other hand, destabilizing any Arab country will have a negative effect on the Palestinian cause. We have seen this repeatedly and the result was that Arab weakness has adversely affected the Palestine question.

We are aware that Jordan is facing difficult circumstances and many pressures which we understand. We also assert that Jordan's position on the reckless Zionist threats was distinguished and deserves thanking.

We, from a position of responsibility, will not give our enemy an excuse to fish in troubled water and will adopt appropriate measures and steps in this connection to safeguard Jordan's security and stability.

We do not carry out military action from outside. As for the statements that talk about the five revenge operations, they were contained in statements issued by the ['Izz-al-Din] al-Qassam Battalions in Palestine. Other statements only reiterated this.

We think that there are no grounds whatsoever for these fears because we are concerned about Jordanian cohesion and the security and stability of this country.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Do you feel that Jordan understands this position?

[Abu-Marzuq] The Jordanian Government is certain that the credibility of the Hamas movement is high and it has never felt anything that contravenes this policy. It knows for sure that the official spokesman or the Movement's representative in Jordan have no connection with any action inside Palestine. They know, and everybody else knows, that the Movement and its military presence as a whole are inside Palestine. Therefore, Jordan is in a strong position to reject these threats because it stems from its sincere stand and actual practice. Therefore, I think that the Jordanian Government understands the Movement's position.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Is the Movement going to adopt any measures in light of the Zionists' threats Zionists to Jordan?

[Abu-Marzuq] Basically, we will not allow any justifications for the enemy to fish in troubled water. This is in addition to some measures that have to do with the Movement itself, which we are going to take into consideration in the future, God willing, so as not to embarrass Jordan in these difficult circumstances.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] How do you view Jordan's position on the recent threats?

[Abu-Marzuq] I think that Jordan's reply to Israeli threats was strong and characterized by frankness and objectivity. The Movement had no official offices to begin with. The government officially deals with the PLO. Jordan has not dealt with us as representatives of the Palestinian people, and we have not claimed to be so. We represent part of the Palestinian people, but we do not recognize PLO representation of all the Palestinian people. Jordan's position was open and objective and it reflects actual reality.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Given the international, Arab, and Palestinian situation, it seems that Hamas is approaching a fierce war with the Zionist enemy and its allies, particularly in the PLO leadership. It stands alone in confronting the Zionist enemy militarily at a time when the rest of the 10 factions opposing the current settlement process are unjustifiably absent. The question is how will Hamas confront this fierce war?

[Abu-Marzuq] We realize that since the first setback [the 1948 Arab-Israeli war], the Palestinian people have been facing successive plots and making large sacrifices. The Hamas Movement is part of these people and derives its strength—after depending on Almighty God—from the people's resolve to continue their jihad until they attain their hopes and aspirations and regain their land. We are aware of the seriousness of the next stage and it is the same seriousness the Palestinian people faced at various historical stages in Palestine and elsewhere.

What is new in this regard is that part of the Palestinian people chose another path for reasons with which we differ. These differences, however, will not affect the Palestinian people's resistance of occupation. I believe that the current attempts to resolve the conflict will not be successful

because they neither deal with the crux of the issue nor remove the causes of the conflict. This means the conflict will continue. We will not transfer the conflict to the Palestinian arena and will continue to deal with this conflict as sons of the Palestinian people regardless of differences in opinion. We hope they will deal with the Palestinian arena in the same way. The Movement will continue its jihad. We, like them, are suffering from oppression and imprisonment and we will continue to make sacrifices and pay the price of freedom.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Following the implementation of the full or partial autonomy, two facts will emerge: resistance of occupation, which will be pursued by Hamas, and the autonomy institutions and the Palestinian people's living aspects. How will Hamas coexist with these institutions and the living and servicing aspects?

[Abu-Marzuq] We are part of the Palestinian people and cannot ignore their interests and causes, which we will continue to defend. We will also continue to be an active element in all areas of life, including education, economy, and services, whether inside or outside the framework of autonomy.

As for the political issue, that is, the administrative autonomy and normalization, we will certainly not deal with them positively. We will not participate in building the institutions that do not serve the Palestinian people unless these institutions go beyond the designated framework and begin to express the Palestinian people's ambitions. The Movement can then live up to the stage and serve the Palestinian people through the same framework. We will then not create many difficulties for those administrations and will be careful to direct our efforts toward fighting the enemy.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Even if the autonomy institutions dealt with Hamas as an illegal and outlawed organization?

[Abu-Marzuq] I think it is difficult for the autonomy institutions to do so. We are part of the Palestinian people, not a simple part which can be chased. Consequently, it will be difficult for them to take such a step and I do not think they will make such a reckless decision.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] The Political Bureau of Hamas issued a political statement in which a paragraph reads: "Any peace in the region must be based on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and holding free elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to elect representatives of the Palestinian people who will decide the next steps and the future of the [Palestine] question." Does this mean that developing the present formula of the settlement will win the approval of the Hamas Movement?

[Abu-Marzuq] As a resistance movement, we think that if the enemy government wants to end the ordeal it is experiencing, then this cannot take place by imposing surrender on the Palestinian people. What we are saying is that there could be a peace treaty or a truce in order to rescue the region from its complex situation and end this crisis.

The resolutions of international legitimacy have considered the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem occupied territories owned by the Palestinian people who live on these territories. If they want the resistance to stop this very minute, then what is required:

1. The withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem.

2. The dismantling of the settlements.

3. Compensation for the losses and victims as a result of the occupation.

4. Holding free elections so that the Palestinian people will elect a leadership that will express the aspirations of the Palestinian people and the future of the conflict. If the Movement gets elected, then it has its own clear stand toward the conflict. However, it it wins a minority of votes, then it will express its views freely and we will respect the opinion of the elected majority.

What we are offering is a way out of the current predicament. The PLO is negotiating with the Zionist enemy on foundations which we do not think are correct. The party that has a right to present views regarding the future of the conflict must be an elected leadership that represents the Palestinian people.

We do not mind seeing the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem under the supervision of international troops, Palestinian police, or the Arab administrations which had previous control over these territories or of which these territories were a part before the 1967 aggression.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Is this a political initiative?

[Abu-Marzuq] You can call it this way if you like. You can also say this is the Movement's vision to end the predicament, if you like.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] "The killing of civilians" is rejected internationally. Why did Hamas do this in the 'Afula and Hadera operations?

[Abu-Marzuq] Over the past years, the al-Qassam Battalions have been committed to their right to resisting the occupation troops and the settler militias, and they have never violated this rule. However, the occupation troops have been killing our children, women, and old men. Also, the occupation troops do not stop the inhuman practices of the settlers, whose peak was the killing of dozens of people at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque. This crime was not enough for them. A series of other crimes followed in the same city, and curfew was imposed on the victim. The occupation troops also let the criminal wolves free in the land and gave them a free hand to kill the sons of our people, to the extent that they did not spare a woman in her third month of pregnancy and the baby which she was trying to protect. This is in addition to shooting schoolchildren in Bethlehem, injuring nine of them.

All of this has prompted the battalions to treat the enemy the same way, and this is approved by international law and divine law until the troops and settlers stop killing the

unarmed sons of our people. Then, the Battalions will go back to their policy of resisting the occupation.

Hamas Political Bureau Issues Statement

JN1904103094 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 19-25 Apr 94 p 9

[Statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Hamas; place and date not given]

[Text] Since he took office, the terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin has been pursuing repression against all sections of our Palestinian population and ordering the occupation troops to shoot at our people without discriminating between armed and unarmed or young and old people. He has also unleashed armed gangs of settlers to terrorize and kill our people and profane their holy sites. Unprovoked and ongoing killings carried out by the occupation troops and settlers have targeted women, children, and the elderly.

Despite Rabin's peace protestations, the launch of the Madrid-Washington process, and the signing of the Oslo accord, the Rabin government's crimes against our people have doubled as have the draconian security measures, including collective punishment, and the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In response to these criminal policies, our people have stepped up their resistance to occupation and their confrontations with its tools represented in the troops and settlers, which is the same strategy of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

The Rabin government's repressive measures have gone too far and climaxed when his soldiers colluded with the settlers in the hideous Hebron massacre against kneeling worshippers at dawn prayers.

Moreover, soldiers opened fire on pregnant women while at home or standing in their doorways, thus spurring our people to escalate their resistance to occupation and to avenge the martyrs of the horrific Hebron massacre.

To honor the martyrs' blood, the martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions active across our country decided to take revenge for our martyrs' blood. Two of our heroic mujahidin carried out two acts of martyrdom in 'Afula and Hadera against soldier and settler targets. The operations were mounted in the face of the strict security measures instituted by the Rabin government to attend celebrations marking the anniversary of the theft of our country.

The failure of the Rabin government's measures to preempt our heroic mujahidin on the eve of launching an implementation of the Oslo accord and against the backdrop of his promises of security and tranquility for the Zionist public as a result of that accord and the disgraceful PLO concessions, coupled with rising Likud opposition to his policies, has left him frustrated and feeling a sense of doom and confusion.

Hamas would like to make the following points:

First: The terrorist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has issued a threat to brother Jordan, claiming that the Movement maintains its headquarters on its territories. Rabin demanded that Jordan crack down on Hamas in a wretched attempt to capitalize on a confirmation by the Movement's representative in Amman that al-Qassam Battalions were responsible for the heroic operations in 'Afula and Hadera.

Rabin and his criminal government colleagues know only too well that the planning, execution, and announcements on the battalion's operations all originate in the occupied territories.

Using a combination of his inability to forestall these operations and the exposure of his deceptiveness in the settlement process, Rabin issued the threat to Jordan to advance the following goals:

1. To shift attention away from the failure of his draconian security and repressive measures to thwart the heroic acts of martyrdom executed by al-Qassam Battalions and our people's resistance throughout the land.

2. To use the clout of the United States to press Jordan into signing a unilateral peace agreement with his government on the Oslo accord model. This threat fits in with the inspection of merchant vessels bound for the Port of al-'Aqabah as a lever of pressure on brotherly Jordan and the retention of Syria on Washinton's list of nations sponsoring terrorism as a tool to press the Syrians into backing down on their demand for a universal settlement on all fronts.

Hamas is not unaware of what the enemy hopes to reap from peace—the Arab parties' capitulation to its demeaning terms and a consolidation of its dominance over our region, while it stays in our territories. Rabin and his government's allegations are false and groundless. Our Movement's single-minded purpose is resistance to occupation until victory and liberation.

Hamas hereby underlines its concern for the security and stability of all the countries where it has political and media representatives who observe their respective laws. Hamas strives to deny any grounds for the occupying enemy to apply pressure on any of these countries.

Second: Hamas' established policy had been that 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Battalion's operations should be directed exclusively at occupation troops and its military agencies, as well as the settlers as army reservists. Al-Qassam Battalions had taken pains to spare civilians in their anti-occupation action.

However, the Rabin government's strong-arm tactics running counter to the most basic human rights and the failure of the enemy military and settlers to distinguish between fighter mujahidin and unarmed civilians prompted al-Qassam Battalions to adopt the principle of reciprocity, which has been sanctioned by temporal and divine laws alike.

The 'Afula and Hadera attacks that targeted concentrations of troops and settlers and hit some civilians were meant as

a deterrent for the savage Zionist aggression on our people and a legitimate revenge for the blood of the martyrs of the hideous Hebron massacre. The actions were not a constant policy for al-Qassam Battalions, but an exception dictated by the enemy government.

Hamas is prepared to reconsider this exception, provided the enemy prime minister, his government, and army undertake to stop killing unarmed civilians of our people. Our objective is to guarantee the security and safety of our people and deter killers so that our people are not made easy targets for enemy soldiers and unrestrained settler gangs. Hamas will adhere to its policy of resistance as long as occupation remains.

Third: The quickened pace of jihad and heroic operations by our mujahidin in al-Qassam Battalions fits in with the Movement's game plan of resistance until occupation is routed and our sacred land liberated.

To cover the abysmal failure of the Rabin government to thwart our mujahidin's heroic operations, this government claims that the Hamas' actions are designed to undermine or abort the peace process, in an attempt to discredit Hamas in the eyes of the internationaal community.

We want to make an oft-repated statement that Hamas is not adverse to the principle of peace. However, the kind of peace offered by the enemy government is not peace; it is a consolidation of occupation and the iniquity to which our people are subjected. We are aware that the Oslo operation is one of humiliating surrender by the PLO leadership and capitulation to the Zionist and American terms and dictates. The operation carries the seeds of its own destruction; built on unjust and false foundations, it is destined to crash.

The right beginning lies in the following steps:

1. A full Zionist withdrawal from our Palestinian land and the dismantlement and removal of the settlements.

2. Free and fair general elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in which our peole would choose their representatives and leadership.

3. It is the elected leadership that reflects the hopes and ambitions of our people and decides on the next steps and the future of the Palestinian cause.

This is to shed light on Hamas' stands and to expose the lies and frivolities of the enemy prime minister. In the meantime, Hamas promises our people to sustain the jihad and martyrdom until the liberation of all of Palestine.

Hamas Activist Says Ready for 'Genuine Peace'

TA1904111094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The security forces this morning arrested about 50 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists from Gaza city, Rafah, and the Jabalyah refugee camp. The arrests follow an earlier sweep over the weekend, when more than 50 Hamas activists were also arrested.

[A report by military correspondent Yariv Ben-Yehuda on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 19 April adds: "It appears that 10 of those arrested are former deportees who returned to the Gaza Strip from southern Lebanon a few months ago. Tension in the strip is high since the arrests were carried out. Arab sources warned today that retaliatory terror attacks by Hamas are to be expected in the wake of the arrests which, according to them, seriously harmed the organization."]

Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the Hamas deportees who returned from south Lebanon and acts as a spokesman for Hamas in the strip, denied the people arrested were senior activists. Speaking to reporter Mark Weiss, al-Zahhar also puts the number of those arrested at up to 200:

[Begin recording] [Al-Zahhar] The number, up to last night, ranged from 150 up to 200, and the people who were arrested are not activists. They were previously under detention or had already been sentenced. There is no reason for arresting any of them because they are well known as Islamic people. They have no participation in the process carried on in the area.

[Weiss] Do you think this is an Israeli crackdown following the 'Afula and Hadera bombings?

[Al-Zahhar] Do you think the people who were arrested in the Gaza Strip are involved in what happened in 'Afula and Hadera?

[Weiss] An interview was published in Jordan this morning from Musa Abu-Marzuq, the head of the Hamas politburo, and he said that Hamas may be willing to make peace with Israel if Israel pulls out of the occupied territories and dismantles the settlements. Do you see this as a change in Hamas policy?

[Al-Zahhar] I actually until now did not read the statements thoroughly, and after its discussion, I think after that I will be ready to give my personal idea.

[Weiss] Would you support peace with Israel if they withdrew from the territories and pulled out of the settlements?

[Al-Zahhar] This actually should be thoroughly studied, because about what we are going to negotiate? What will be the relation of the occupied territories, and what will be the contradiction between this implementation of policy with the Cairo and Oslo agreements? So, what type of peace Israel are going to give? If they are ready to give a genuine peace, a permanent peace, a justice peace, I think nobody will refuse. [end recording]

Self-Rule Economic 'Board of Executives' Selected

JN1604090794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Apr 94 p 10

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has completed recruiting a "board of executives" for a council that will take charge of the economic aspects of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories, PLO officials said Friday [15 April].

Once formally installed in office, the "board of executives" will meet one of the key demands of international donors and the World Bank which have been pressing the PLO for "credible" Palestinian institutions to channel aid to support the Palestinian self-rule envisaged under the Sept. 13 accord between Israel and the PLO.

The executives will take direct charge of the nitty-gritty details of economy, such as customs and tariffs, taxation, social security, currency and monetary affairs as well as other aspects of financial administration of the occupied territories under the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR).

In essence, PECDAR is expected to be the Palestinian ministry of finance in the occupied territories pending final-status negotiations with Israel after the interim period as stipulated in the September accord.

The PLO officials said a PECDAR committee selected the executives, who will in effect be heads of departments, who had responded to advertisements in Jordan, Tunisia and the occupied territories.

Many of the interviews were conducted in Amman early this month, they said.

"The names of the successful candidates have been forwarded to the PLO leadership, and we are now awaiting approval from Tunis," where the PLO is headquartered, said a senior PLO official. But the official declined to characterise the recruits.

But other PLO sources said most of those recommended by the interview committee were of Palestinian origin who have had extensive experience in financial administration in the Gulf states and elsewhere.

"They more than meet the basic requirements and qualifications that enable them to be the key figures in the executive side of Palestinian nation-building," said one source. "Many of them have done [work] in the Gulf states, contributing to setting financial administrative structures there and made a success of it."

The list of recruits has to be approved by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, PLO officials said.

The World Bank, which is directly in charge of channelling pledged international aid of up to $2.4 billion to help support Palestinian self-rule has been insisting that expertise, rather than political loyalties, guide the selection of key officials in the autonomy structure.

Mr. 'Arafat chairs PECDAR. His immediate deputies are Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department and the de facto foreign minister of Palestine and Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, head of the Economic Department of the PLO.

Ahmad Quray' a PLO economic strategist and one of the key figures in the secret Oslo negotiations that led the autonomy accord, and Sari Nusaybah, a university professor from the occupied West Bank, are the senior-most executives of the 13-member council.

Several other members who are professional economists have complained that 'Arafat loyalists rather than people with expertise dominate the council. Some of the critics have announced their suspension of membership in the council, but PLO officials said they had not submitted formal resignations.

Among them are Dr. Yusuf Sayigh, a Beirut-based Palestinian economist who led the Palestinian side to multilateral talks on economic cooperation.

Samir 'Abdallah, a noted professor of economics from a West Bank university and member of the multilateral group, has also been critical of the way the PLO leadership was handling its economic approach and the overall peace negotiations with Israel.

The council is expected to meet soon in Tunisia to discuss practical measures to coordinate with the World Bank to channel aid to the self-rule areas, the PLO officials said.

That meeting will be followed by the first meeting of the "board of executives" of PECDAR. The board will work under the direct supervision of PECDAR in implementing the decisions and policies of the council," said the PLO official.

Jawad Naji, a member of the council and head of the PLO's economic department in Amman, said in a recent interview that the council estimates that it needs up to $400 million in the first year.

The donors and the World Bank, in a meeting held in Paris in January, decided to allocate up to $160 million to the council.

Dr. Naji noted that the allocation falls short of PLO estimates, but said the organisation hoped to secure further funds once self-rule is in place.

"We have to start from scratch in the occupied territories," Dr. Naji said, referring to the almost total absence of self-supporting economic structure in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Algeria

Directives of President Presented to Council of Ministers

LD1804222794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Report on "guideline address" by President Liamine Zeroual to the Council of Ministers on 18 April in Algiers—recorded]

[Text] At the presidency of the Republic, head of state Liamine Zeroual today chaired the first meeting of the Council of Ministers since the appointment of the new prime minister, Mr. Mokdad Sifi. It should be mentioned that Mr. Sifi's government consists of 29 ministers, and among its priorities are the consolidation of the state institutions, reviving the national economy, and promoting national solidarity. Concerning the issues tabled at the meeting of the Council of Ministers today, the official spokesman for the presidency, Mr. Mihoub, said the following:

On the occasion of this first meeting with the government chaired by Mr. Mokdad Sifi, the head of state, made the following guideline address:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. On the occasion of this meeting of the Council of Ministers, I cannot, to begin with, but greet and express my personal gratitude to Mr. Redha Malek, the previous prime minister, and all the members of his team for their commitment and loyalty in serving our country. In addressing you, ministers, I congratulate you for your selection, and I express to you and the prime minister my sincerest wishes of success in the mission entrusted to you.

The appointment of your government comes within the framework of establishing the institutions that will be in charge of the realization of the objectives of the transitional stage, the objectives mentioned by the platform agreed by the national conference. In this framework come all the activities already started in the recent weeks, as well as the directives I gave at the two previous meetings of the Council of Ministers, which I recall today. I have already had the occasion to define the problems that were the cause of the crisis faced by our country. In addition to the known political causes and the deterioration of the foreign monetary resources, there was a laissez-faire in management and lack of clarity of objectives.

Such deviations faciliated the emergence of calamities in the apparatus of the state, such as bureaucracy, despotism, injustice, and nepotism. Such deviations also reduced contact between officials and permitted the absence of officials in the field of work, as well as the marginalization and instability of the cadres. The break with past practices, which remain our basic objective, lies in eliminating these manifestations and practices, and this can be brought about only with the carrying out of a radical change in the state's structures which, in the future, must obey new rules.

Effectively, the work we are doing to bring about national reconciliation and definitively uproot terrorism and violence from our society must be necessarily accompanied by the strengthening of the state's institutions, the rehabilitation of the civil service, and the setting up of sound relations between the citizens and the administration, which must be in their service. In this respect, the mobilization of officials at all levels is an urgent necessity to guarantee the follow-up and the realization of decisions, and to perform the job of control, and therefore restore full credibility to the public institutions. In this respect, there must be reforms that give a fresh breath to the civil service sector.

The credibility of the public institutions also requires them to lead by example in reducing the state's expenditure and practicing austerity. This credibility also requires combating bribery, speculation, and smuggling with seriousness and determination. The law must be implemented strictly within the framework of the respect of individual and collective liberties.

In the field of communication, the government has got to exert a considerable effort. The media, which will receive a lot of attention, should be mobilized so as to carry out its fundamental role, which consists in serving the higher interests of the citizens and conveying their concerns to the state.

The media, whose variety is considered as one of the gains of democracy, should play its role in consolidating this achievement and defending the higher interests of the homeland, whatever source is harming them. Freedom of expression means the responsible transmitting of sincere information away from any deceptions and conspiracies.

It is also our duty to devote a bigger share of attention to promote our national culture. It is indisputable that our deep-rooted cultural heritage is considered a property of the Algerians and a strong factor in the unity and progress of our people.

A comprehensive program for our national culture must be set up to recover the true position of this sector in our society. The success of all these tasks demands the utmost care in choosing officials at all levels of the state apparatus. As you know, the state has concluded an agreement with the IMF. We will be vigilant in implementing this agreement in our concern that it should bring benefits to citizens and in reviving the national economy.

Within this framework I accord every importance to the temporary burdens ensuing from this agreement will be borne equitably by all strata of society and to implementing social protection programs that are accompanied by effective implementation.

The national solidarity, which constitutes a tradition and is one of the demands of our people, must be reinforced more and more particularly for the benefit of the most deprived groups. Within the same context, some sectors of the national economy that I have previously touched upon must receive special care and be given priority in the

government's efforts. This matter is related to the hydrocarbons, housing and agriculture sectors, small and medium enterprises, and trade. These priorities will allow the exploitation of the positive effects of the agreement with the IMF to activate the national economic apparatus, meet the requirements of the citizens, and create new jobs.

We must also work to mobilize as many as possible of the country's resources, including the tourism sector, which will play a considerable role in developing the national economic wealth.

Furthermore, the implementation of the agreement with the IMF comes within the framework of a structural reform process in connection with the national economy. This process should be continued and consolidated, especially in the sphere of industrial restructuring, and this sector should be opened up to partnership.

It is obvious that all these operations, which require the government's utmost attention, will be better implemented by delegating them to the local authorities. The state is also represented by the wali, the head of the district, and the head of the municipal executive body.

Within this framework we should rehabilitate the local communities, whose contribution to a coherent development of the country is indisputable. These tasks will achieve better success if they are carried out within the framework of an intensive consultation with social partners. As far as this is concerned, the creation of the National Social and Economic Council, which should be initiated as soon as possible, will contribute to promoting consultation between the state and its social partners.

Finally, this program will receive more popular support if it is effectively explained to show clearly that this program requires temporary sacrifices, and that its aim, in the final assessment, is to revive national development and to produce opportunity for the creative resources, particularly the youth, to whom the horizons of the future will be opened, and toward which they can legitimately aspire to.

Those are some of the directives your government program will focus on. The program should be prepared as soon as possible, because the state will not restore the citizens' trust unless it honors the commitments it undertook and provides tangible deeds.

No doubt that consultation, unity of action, consistency of address, and the daily follow up of major issues are among the requirements for the success of your program, and of the materialization of the objectives which we have set for ourselves.

Solidarity and harmony will be two conditions necessary in order to carry out our task.

Here ends the directives of the head of state presented before the Council of Ministers. Thank you. [end recording]

New Industrial, Restructuring Minister Notes Post

LD1704113494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Mourad Benachnou, the minister of industrial restructuring and participation [former economy minister], yesterday described his new duty as important. He said it will be within the framework of reorganizing the economy on the basis of the stability program, which was negotiated with the IMF.

Meanwhile, Benachnou affirmed the commitment of the new Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi to honor Algeria's international pledges. He added that without restructuring the economy—which is the second stage of the government's policy after balancing finances—the stability program could never succeed. He said that options that accommodate Algeria's social reality should be found.

The prime minister, who installed Benachnou in his new duty, said that the aim of creating this new ministry was to create a new nucleus in order to restructure the economy along the path of industrial restructuring and crossing into the market economy. [passage omitted]

RCD To Boycott Transitional National Council

LD1704203094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Concerning the setting up of the Transitional National Council, debates on whether to take part in it have flavored the lives of political parties.

After the National Liberation Front, the Socialist Forces Front, Ennahda, Ettahadi Movement, and the Democratic Movement for the Renewal of Algeria announced they were boycotting the council, the Rally for Culture and Democracy announced that it would not be participating. The Algerian People's Union, however, has agreed to join in.

Security Forces Kill 4 'Terrorists,' Arrest 17 Others

LD1604211094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] A communique of the security services mentioned that the terrorist Sayah Atia died last February following injuries he sustained during a clash with the security forces. This was confirmed by terrorists close to Atia who were arrested by the security services.

The source pointed out that Sayah Atia, alias El Khan, who carried out several assassinations, was seriously injured by security forces during a manhunt in the Medea province on 13 February 1994.

The security services announced that their forces were able to kill four terrorists and arrest 17 others between last Sunday and Thursday in Jijel, Blida, Boumerdes, Tiaret, and Bouira. The security forces recovered a Mat 49 pistol stolen during an aggression carried out in Lakhdaria in February 1992.

On the other hand, the security services pointed out that three out of the four terrorists who were killed in Mila province on 5 April were identified as being those who escaped from the re-education prison of Tazoult on 10 March 1994.

Religious Affairs Ministry Official Assassinated

LD1704165294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Mr. Belkacem Abadli, a central inspector at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, has been assassinated. The victim, who was born in 1945, was married and had five children. He was abducted from his home in Larba on 13 April and found dead in Sidi Moussa yesterday.

The deceased will be buried tomorrow at El Tar, his place of birth. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on Regional Events, Other Issues

NC1804204894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Apr 94

["Text" of interview with President Husni Mubarak by unidentified correspondents from ASHAI SHIMBUM and Ashai television; place and date not given—first three paragraphs are MENA introduction]

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed the belief that an agreement will be reached between the Palestinians and the Israelis on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles by the end of April or the first week of May at the latest, noting that the Israeli withdrawal will begin immediately after that.

In an interview with the Japanese newspaper ASAHI SHIMBUN and Asahi television, President Mubarak said that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat is still the leader who enjoys the respect of the Palestinians, and that his leadership has not been shaken. Most of the Palestinian people respect the leadership of 'Arafat, who has sacrificed a great deal for the sake of his homeland.

The text of President Mubarak's interview follows:

[ASAHI] Mr. President, the target date for Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho on 13 April has passed. What were the obstacles that have caused this delay, and which party is to blame for it? Can Your Excellency tell us of any specific date for the signing of the final agreement?

[Mubarak] The 13th of April has indeed passed, and this is due to some obstacles in regard to security measures affecting the Palestinians and the Israelis, particularly on the border between Gaza and Egypt and between the West Bank and Jordan. There are some other problems regarding land and how to deal with crimes that could occur in any of these areas. There were many problems, but the situation is now improving, and the two parties are about to solve many of them. I hope that they will reach agreement by the end of this month or the first week of May at the latest, and immediately after that the withdrawal will begin.

Regarding the negotiations, you cannot say that the Israelis or the Palestinians are responsible for the delay. Both sides are responsible. Let us be frank. The Israelis have the land but the Palestinians have nothing. Therefore, concessions must be made. Problems and obstacles are expected in the negotiations, but they must continue because they are the only way to establish peace and to solve the problems. I think that the two parties are about to reach a settlement on these problems.

[ASAHI] Mr. President, it appears that Yasir 'Arafat's leadership of the Palestinians is shaky because of the delay in implementing the Declaration of Principles. What is your assessment of his leadership?

[Mubarak] We cannot say that 'Arafat's leadership is shaky. I can tell you that the assessments of the foreign agencies and those who do not live in the area are not totally correct. Sometimes these assessments are wrong because of false information given the media by some factions that do not want peace to prevail or for problems to be solved. 'Arafat is still the leader of the PLO and enjoys the respect of the Palestinians. You will hear voices here and there. No one can expect all the Palestinians to agree on 'Arafat's leadership. There is Hamas and other factions. But the majority of the people want peace, and respect the leadership of 'Arafat, who has sacrificed a great deal for the sake of his homeland.

'Arafat is the one who makes the decisions. There is a council that assists him. He discusses all points with the council, but he makes the decisions on the basis of the discussions with the council, the PLO Executive Committee. Therefore, the man is strong. Had there been another man now, I do not think it would have been possible to reach a settlement.

[ASAHI] You met recently with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. What is your assessment of President al-Asad's real intentions regarding the peace process with Israel, what are the major obstacles hindering peace between Syria and Israel, and how optimistic are you about making progress in the Syrian-Israeli peace talks?

[Mubarak] Although the major problem hindering the Syrian-Israeli negotiations is represented by the lack of confidence between the two sides, I can frankly say that President al-Asad wants to reach a peaceful settlement, recover the Golan Heights, and find a very fair agreement. There is no way other than negotiations to achieve peace.

Every leader is eager to see peace prevail in his country so that he can dedicate all his efforts to his people's prosperity and provide job opportunities for all so the people can have a chance to live and work in peace. The same thing goes for Israel. But the lack of confidence I mentioned before raises some doubts among the Israelis. Through my contacts with both sides, I can see that both want to reach a peaceful settlement through negotiations.

Let us be realistic. The Golan Heights must be returned fully to Syria, otherwise there will be a major obstacle to peace, not only with Syria, but with all the other parties as well.

This issue is important, very important. The Syrians will never agree to sign a peace accord unless they regain their occupied territories. We did the same thing; we did not relinquish an inch of our territories. It is not the leaders who say that; the public urge the leaders not to make any concessions, not even an inch of land.

[ASAHI] Egypt has played an important role in the Middle East peace process. At present, you play a central role in the peace negotiations. What kind of role is Egypt likely to play to reach a comprehensive, peaceful settlement in the Middle East?

[Mubarak] We are helping on all fronts. Egypt is a major state in this region; it is the biggest regional state. It regained its occupied lands through negotiations, war, more negotiations, and then the International Court of Justice. We have much experience in that field and we know how to negotiate. Negotiations involving land are very difficult and complicated. We are trying to narrow the differences between the Israelis and Palestinians, and even between the Israelis and the Syrians and between the Israelis and the other parties.

As far as the Palestinian problem is concerned, we are helping the Palestinians, we support the peace process, and we are trying hard to bring the views of the PLO and the Israeli Government closer. I believe that what we did brought the parties together in Oslo and then in Cairo. The parties are holding negotiations in Cairo at present. I hope these negotiations will produce an agreement soon.

[ASAHI] The problem of the settlements in the occupied territories seems to be very hard to solve. How can this problem be solved in your view?

[Mubarak] This is a very hard and complex question. When the second framework of the Camp David accord on the Palestinian problem and settlements was signed, the number of settlements was 48, all of which were small. There are 180 big settlements at present. This will be the major obstacle in the coming phase of negotiations for a comprehensive peace settlement. I hope a good solution will be found for this problem through negotiations.

[ASAHI] What kind of solution?

[Mubarak] I cannot speak on behalf of either the Palestinians or the Israelis. We will do our utmost to examine the various options and ideas on both sides with the help of the United States and others. We will try to narrow the gap between the two sides to find a solution to this very complex problem.

Had the problem been addressed in 1978 it would have been much easier. With 48 small settlements, many could have been removed and settlers could have found some other job. But what are they going to do now when there are 180 settlements? It is a major problem, both for the Palestinians and the Israelis.

[ASAHI] What is the Egyptian strategy to expand the peace process?

[Mubarak] Negotiations are proceeding with the Palestinians right now over the first phase. Then there will be a timetable for negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories. In the meantime, the Israelis are negotiating with the Syrians on returning the occupied Golan Heights. There are some small problems with Jordan. I believe that all these negotiations will eventually reach a final settlement.

[ASAHI] Through Egypt's mediation?

[Mubarak] I told you from the beginning that Egypt is playing the role of mediator and that some of Egypt's efforts have not been publicized. We do not disclose them to the media. Some parties release certain information that we do not want to reveal to the media because they might ruin or complicate negotiations. We are doing our utmost.

[ASAHI] When do you think a comprehensive peace agreement will be concluded?

[Mubarak] We hope this will happen in 1994. There must be an agreement with the Syrians, the Palestinians, and all the parties concerned. I hope so. I am very optimistic.

[ASAHI] What is your assessment of the situation concerning terrorism?

[Mubarak] Terrorism exists in Egypt just like it does all over the world. It is everywhere right now.

As far as Egypt is concerned, we ruled out a dialogue with these criminals—I cannot describe them as Muslims. They have been criminals since 1981, and in 1992 they started to use force to kill civilians. The Egyptian police are not accustomed to killing anyone, except in self-defense. When these criminals started to attack the police and civilians on the streets here and there, the police had to be more effective. The police are responsible to public opinion; they have to safeguard domestic peace. Therefore, the situation must be under their control. We have no concerns in this connection. The problem is that these people are being financed by foreign quarters, probably Egyptians or persons from other states who used to fight in Afghanistan. Many of them are in Yemen at present.

[ASAHI] Can you specify the names of these states?

[Mubarak] I have told you that I generally do not reveal all the information available to me. But everybody knows this all over the world. Ask the Jordanians and all the states that have terrorism. Terrorism exists in Turkey, in your country, Japan, in the United States, Germany, France, Asia, everywhere.

[ASAHI] What is the reason for the sudden postponement of your visit to Japan?

[Mubarak] It was not sudden. The prime minister resigned and the government is busy selecting a new prime minister. It is not proper to visit Japan at such a time; they have not appointed a prime minister. He might be appointed today; and the visit was supposed to begin today. I could not have gone there while the government was experiencing a change. Your parliament will still have to approve the appointment, probably on Wednesday. Therefore, I believe that it is difficult. The public would ask me why I visited Japan when there was no government there. But relations between Egypt and Japan are good. The sudden postponement was due to the sudden resignation of the prime minister.

[ASAHI] Will you visit Japan in the near future?

[Mubarak] Certainly. Once the new government takes over we will fix another date to visit Japan.

[ASAHI] Do you believe that Japan should play a bigger role in this region?

[Mubarak] I believe that it has a quite significant role in this connection. It can at least contribute to the region's development. I am talking about the occupied territories in our region, including Syria and all the equally-important states.

That is how we look to Japan. This kind of contribution is very effective in developing the states that will constitute the foundation of the modern age after peace has been established. I believe that Japan is capable of playing a very significant role in developing this part of the world.

[ASAHI] The Palestinians and Chairman 'Arafat are frustrated by the delay in implementing the agreement, while the Israelis are indifferent to that delay. What are your observations on this difference in positions?

[Mubarak] It is a political game.

President: Peace, Stability National Issues

NC1904030994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Asyut, 18 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak affirmed that Egypt has preserved, and will continue to preserve and guard the moderate Islamic heritage and culture, and that its people have been an example of forgiveness, moderation, and religious tolerance since the dawn of history.

This came in the president's message today to the people of Asyut during a popular celebration to mark the governorate's annual festival in Markaz Manfalut, Asyut. Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub read the message on the president's behalf.

President Mubarak emphasized that society's peace and stability is a national issue, the responsibility for which falls on each citizen—on both the majority and opposition, and primarily on the political institutions and organizations, and the popular, professional, and trade associations.

He stressed that Egypt belongs to all Egyptians, progovernment and opposition alike, and that sustaining its safety and peace is the responsibility of all its sons. Egypt is above all and bigger than all, he said.

Reviewing the economic reform march, the president said that we are about to reap the fruits of that reform. The masses of the great Egyptian people provided real support to guarantee the success of that reform, he said.

Mubarak affirmed that the future is promising and calls for optimism and hope to overcome many of the crises our great people have withstood and to make up for the sacrifices they had to make to put the homeland on the right course.

Touching on the current phase the country is going through, the president said that the success of the human, economic, and political development march, along which we have gone far, depends on a cohesive national front and a stable and secure society. He stressed a number of general principles considered crucial to ensuring the success of the Egyptian march. These principles emphasize that society's security and stability is a national issue and that the Egyptian political system's strength lies in its effort to expand democracy without disturbing the criteria that distinguish democracy from anarchy. They also emphasize that serving the masses can only be done through serious and sincere work and by giving public interest priority over all else, that social peace is the safety valve for the national march, and that terrorism is an open war against Egypt and its people that seeks to waste the country's resources and ruin its accomplishments.

The president stressed that Egypt has preserved and will continue to preserve and guard the moderate Islamic culture and heritage. Advocates of violence should know that all they will harvest by indulging in their action is disgrace and social isolation, he said.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech on UN, Lockerbie, Other Issues

LD1704155594 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1250 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Address by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli on 15 April—recording]

[Excerpts] Today's rally is added to other mass rallies by various sections of the Libyan Arab people who have moved by themselves and said that they have joined the ranks of confrontation in order to be at the historical frontline so that they can face the enemies who beat the drums of war and threats and blow the trumpets of departure for war. They do this as it is their custom, which history has made us accustomed to, as they are barbaric and savage peoples who have not ceased to attack us from one century to another out of injustice and hostility.

We, along with the whole world, do not belive that the problem is the so-called Pan Am or Lockerbie incident.

This is only an excuse. When one of these countries—namely Britain, which is one of the great powers confronting us now, confronting this small nation—wanted to occupy an Arab country, Egypt in 1882, Britain said there was a fortress [tabiyah] in Alexandria that was in conflict with Britain's security and should be removed and that Egypt's building a fortress in Alexandria constituted a threat to Britain's security.

When 'Urabi [Ahmad 'Urabi, an Egyptian nationalist who fought against British occupation] refused to remove that fortress, Britain attacked Egypt on the pretext of self-defense. This mockery was recorded in history, and convoys of martyrs became victims of it.

Matters such as these are what made important sections of the Libyan people, such as writers, artists, religious jurists, and lawyers, along with great masses of revolutionary people in all the places I have visited [sentence as heard]. Because they realized that the issue here is an attempt to seek unjust aggression and find justification for this aggression.

What adds to our steadfastness and strengthens our stance is that the struggling forces against injustice and insolence in all parts of the world stand by us. We salute today the presence of representatives of peoples and international organizations who raise their voices and say that America, Britain, and France are states that are transgressors and aggressors and have no right in anything they do against the Libyan people. The Libyan people are innocent people who have been wronged, and consequently, they deserve that all strugglers and honorable people stand by them. This is the reason of their presence with us today. [passage omitted]

France rejects the Security Council, the so-called Security Council, resolution. It refuses to resolve its problem with Libya. It refused to solve the problem although the Security Council calls on Libya to respond to investigations by France. Libya responded but France refused to cooperate with Libya to resolve its problem concerning the French UTA plane.

This is a clear violation by France of the Security Council resolution. The Security Council should hold a session and try France, which violated that resolution and refused to implement it. Sanctions should be imposed on it according to Article 7, since we are talking now about Article 7. It is false.

This festival is taking place in conjunction with an international power to support the Libyan people's rights and to demonstrate clear international condemnation of the aggressive policies of Western states. It is taking place in the shadow of a type of mourning, sorrow, and pain that is cast over Tripoli, Benghazi, and Libya as a whole. Tens of families lost their children, on a day corresponding to today in 1986, when America and Britain violated UN resolutions prohibiting the use of force or threats for the use of force in international relations after World War II.

They perpetrated unjustifiable barbaric aggression and a blatant violation of Article 7. This article should have been implemented on America and Britain. The UN Security Council could not implement this as long as the assaulting countries are the ones that can veto the Security Council resolutions. Therefore, what kind of a Security Council we are relying on?

Brothers, from the legal aspect, this meeting is that of defiance. This is a nice thing and a law on facing force. We see it only as a meeting of defiance of a people, of an important part of a people who are exposed to injustice, attacks, and hostility. [passage omitted]

After Western capitalist imperialism becomes a tyrant and wants to impose the impossible on the world, confrontation is no longer between money and law, but between money and blood. It said it was inevitable that blood replaced law. Exactly the amount of blood offered by peoples in their struggle in defending their dignity, humanity, and their right to life and existence becomes the deterrent law. There is no hope at all in this respect to resort to the UN charter. The UN charter has been destroyed. The 1986 raid on Tripoli burnt the UN charter. They had lied to us. America, France, and Britain had lied to us, and also the Soviet Union in the Stalin era. They had lied to us and said the United Nations is good news to the peoples of the world. [passage omitted]

They told us that this is the United Nations Organization, come and join us. So, we the poor and good people came. Then, we found that this organization was a sword brandished over our necks and that nations are not equal. [passage omitted]

Brothers, who would now dare to say that we are deceived and let's get out of the United Nations? We say it now. We (?explain) getting out of the United Nations because it has proved to be a lie. In the name of the United Nations, thousands of Iraq's children are dying.

Children of Iraq were burnt (?in the occupation of Kuwait). Do Iraqi children still occupying Kuwait deserve to die by the thousands in the name of the United Nations? (?We) have left Kuwait and all of us said it was unjust and an invasion, and we were against all the things Iraq's ruler did in Kuwait. All was condemned.

We are facing, without Kuwait, the same fate of Iraq. Did we occupy Iraq? We are facing the same tragedy. Did Korea occupy Kuwait? Is North Korea the only state on the earth that reached nuclear energy and thus makes them attack it, threaten it, and bomb it? It is the last state to reach nuclear energy, if it has reached it, that is.

What is this abuse, law, and ethics. There is no such thing. When the Soviet deterrent came to an end, the Western states appeared in their true colors without any fear or shame and appeared barbaric and savage.

When Khrushchev and Brezhnev were present, the Western states had ethics, and they respected international law within the UN framework because they were afraid of the missiles of Khrushchev and Brezhnev. Since the deaths of Khrushchev and Brezhnev and the demise of the Soviet Union, America, Britain, and France have no more ethics, human rights, or humaneness. [passage omitted]

Can they answer why they killed dozens of children of Libya (?in a day like this one)? Who can even interview them? Let us go and submit it to the United Nations and inform Libya's delegate at the United Nations tomorrow to submit, on the occasion of this sinister anniversary, the following question: Why did America and Britain kill dozens of children while they were asleep?

When they submit it to the UN Security Council tomorrow, America, and Britain will put their conditions because they have the right of veto. How can we be reassured about the UN and the UN Security Council? What is this Security Council?

[Passage omitted] If there was a law, my brothers, do you think it would have been possible for America, Britain, and France, the plaintiffs, to vote in the Security Council? Never. In the Lockerbie case, they do not legally have the right to participate in the vote because they are the plaintiffs. They are not neutral towards Libya. [passage indistinct] If they vote, and they are the plaintiffs and have the right of veto, what is the meaning of the Security Council, what is its set-up and decisions that [words indistinct] Arabs adhere to. We, the Libyan people, condemn Arab governments that adhere to that resolution. The sanctions against Libya are Arab.

Why don't they say that this is rubbish, this aggression. These are controlled [qararat manzura] resolutions that cannot be recognized, or they can at least be tolerated for some years after which Arabs should say enough. We should defy the deformities [a'hat]. Next to us are Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, and Egypt. Let them bring their planes to us and Libyan planes go there. The sanctions will end, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, too.

Saudi Arabia is preventing the pilgrims. Mecca has become part of the sanctions. The house of God has become part of the sanctions. [passage indistinct] Is it possible for the house of God to become part of the sanctions? If a Libyan plane should take off with pilgrims, Saudi Arabia should say that it was a plane carrying pilgrims and allow it to land. But if it was for trade, tourism purposes, or carrying other passengers, I would abide by the sanctions. Saudi Arabia has the right to adhere to America's Security Council resolutions.

Pilgrims cannot land in Riyadh or even in Jeddah. We can [words indistinct] in Medina and then have to go by foot to Mecca. They are pilgrims, but Saudis say no, Mecca is part of the sanctions. Didn't you bring American troops—who did not have any control on Mecca and Medina—on to the peninsula. Here you are, [word indistinct]. The American resolution has proved that it has control over Mecca and Medina. These are facts.

But we cannot blame our brothers in Saudi Arabia for not defying Security Council sanctions. They may be wishing to be with us, and indeed we and them talk to each. We talk about American injustice, American tyranny, American contempt to the Arabs and all the peoples that want to liberate themselves. The poor, they cannot. Saudi Arabia does not dare defy America. Impossible. It is its destiny. Americans change governments, borders; they change, they assassinate, they unleash the CIA in the world to destroy at will. People raise a hue, a cry over the KGB and remain silent over the CIA. What is the difference between this and that, they are all evil. There is a law, gentlemen. America and Britain should not vote at the Security Council in this precise case [Lockerbie]. Besides, there is also this contempt for the world. Is not there justice in the world except in America and Britain? We said to them: try them in Malta, they say no; we say in Egypt, they say no; in France, no; in Holland, no. Justice in America and Britain only? This means that all other countries have no justice, and there is justice only in America and Britain. This is another contempt to all peoples. This is not permissible. From the legal point of view the two suspects cannot be tried in America and Britain. Why? Because over there they already guilty. When they speak now they do not say: the suspects, they say: those who have blown up the Pan Am and UTA planes. If they already say guilty then the case is no longer a case of accusation. They say: Libya committed the Lockerbie operation. Therefore that is it: the punishment of Libya, all these resolutions put an end to the case. They put an end to the case because they constitute punishment.

Look, as far as international law is concerned, the air embargo, the blockade, and so on, including the losses incurred by Libya because of the Lockerbie affair, are tantamount to punishment. Normally when this punishment is over, the Lockerbie affair ends automatically. Some say Libya carried out Lockerbie and it has been punished for it. That's it then. The matter should have stopped there. You said Libya carried out the Lockerbie operation and you punished her for it. Fine then. You thought Libya carried out the operation and that Libya was guilty. If a person commits a crime and pays the price for it, well that's it; he has paid the price. If you tell someone: You have committed a crime and its punishment will be 10 years imprisonment; and if you jail that person for 10 years, he must be released at the end of that period. You cannot detain him again by telling him: No, we cannot release you because you committed that crime in the past. But if you committed it and served 10 years in jail for it, why should you be detained any longer? That should be it.

Let us suppose Libya carried out Lockerbie. Well, they have already made her pay for it. The matter is over and there should be no further legal prosecution. If we need to use international law as an argument, then this is one of the arguments we are presenting to the world. We have paid the price and that's it; so don't talk about Lockerbie anymore and close the file.

If there is a law, how come they forget the Montreal agreement? How can they make light of the Montreal agreement? The Montreal agreement allows Libya to try the suspects on Libyan soil. The agreement is clear.

The Scottish prosecutor, the Scottish prosecutor general, says hand them to a court in Scotland because courts in Scotland are just and neutral. This prosecutor a month ago made a statement swearing at Libya as if he was a diplomat or a lowly journalist. Is it conceivable that this prosecutor

general who should be making legal statements is so filled with anti-Semitic racist hatred? Semitism means Arabs. It should not be interpreted the way Israelis do. We are Semites. [passage omitted]

The Scottish prosecutor says Libya is a liar and has no credibility or integrity. How could a suspect or the accused go to his court when the Scottish prosecutor general makes these statements? What would the judge be like when the prosecutor behaves in such a way? [passage omitted]

He has said that the so-called Libyan parliament had rejected their trial in [word indistinct] and left it to public opinion. This a tendentious political action against Libya. He overstepped his position as a prosecutor general.

Who is trying to gain time? Is it the accused who has been condemned politically and by the media before a trial and eager to be tried to prove his innocence before the world, or is it the person who has falsified the facts, doctored charge sheets? Maybe the falsification was carried out with the full knowledge of the prosecution itself.

If there was a law, this case would not have been referred to the Security Council, just like a civil case, an ordinary crime. How was it referred to the Security Council? They have a political objective. This should not at all have been referred to the Security Council. When they spoke about referring it to the Security Council, all law experts, and you among them, said this was not possible. This is an ordinary crime, not a case to be referred to the Security Council. It is not a dispute between two states and should not have been referred to the Security Council. [passage omitted]

Brothers, they have no scruples. This is not possible. They are hunting a small people, the Libyan people, who have been living under threats and infringement for so many years because it wants to live free.

UN Security Council members think they could remain their slaves for ever. Could they protect the Israelis in the occupied territories? They could not. They could not because there is a people there that is struggling. There is an ordinary individual who is no governor or king, he has no power or medals, he is not prominent, an individual who is barefoot and has no identity who could carry out a suicide attack and kill whomever he likes among the enemies. When we told them that the Gaza-Jericho agreement was meaningless, they said: You are against peace. I replied I was for real peace and told them that they were the ones who were falsifying the truth and lying to the Jews and the Palestinians, because Jews are at risk because of this agreement.

It showed that 'Arafat is not all of the Palestinian fighters; he is only the head of a single organization called Fatah and not of the Palestine Liberation Organization. 'Arafat is not a fighter. The solution is down to the fighters who have destroyed this agreement and showed that it was... [pauses]. The Palestinian people have now started to fight. They have said: To hell with the Gaza and Jericho agreement. A new power has emerged over which Yasir 'Arafat has no control. From the beginning, on the first day the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed, I made a statement and said I would deceive neither the Jews nor the Palestinians and that the agreement was a big lie because Yasir 'Arafat does not represent all the Palestinians and because there is a power fighting in the arena now and it is the one to hold negotiations with if there are to be any negotiations. I said negotiations should be held with the Palestinian people and all of the Palestinian people have to return to their land. They said no, we want Fatah.

There you are, that is what you got from Fatah. There even was a split within Fatah itself. Fatah hawks are now being killed by the Israelis and they are killing the Israelis [words indistinct]. Fatah are 'Arafat's followers, and they have revolted against him. He has even deceived the Jews. Why do [word indistinct] tell the Jews this is peace? This is swindling. By the way, they all hate the Jews, they all are Hitlers, all of them, from the United States to Russia. They all wish the Jews to be eradicated, and they tell us that those Jews are an evil that has to be eradicated; they hate them more than we do. We eventually say we and the Jews are both Semite and cousins, but they say that those ones are Semite and they have destroyed the world. This is what the French, English, and U.S. officials are saying; it is written in their agendas. [passage omitted]

How do they give a machine gun to a doctor? Why did not the Security Council convene to say that Israel is a terrorist state? Why does the United States support terrorism? The United States gives billions of weapons to so-called Israel, and so-called Israel armed the doctor who perpetrated the massacre at the al-Ibrahimi mosque. How do they give a machine gun to a doctor? If an Arab country had armed a doctor and he was witnessed fighting, they would have immediately put it in the blacklist, declared it as a terrorist state, and put it under siege, ban exports to it, humiliate and wipe it out. Why? They would say because it had armed the doctor. [passage omitted]

How come the government gave him a machine gun? Before the massacre, many days before, in front of the government, the army, the Israeli officials, he used to go out and address people and incite them. Are America, Britain, and France civilized states? America, of course, does not pretent to be civilized. It says we are [word indistinct], cowboys, and criminals. They say all criminals are there and they had formed America. America itself does not at all claim to be a civilized state, and no one can confer on it such a certificate, but are Britain and France civilized states? If Britain is civilized and if France is civilized, then to hell with civilization. This is not civilization. These are biased, very biased nations. [passage omitted]

We defy the Americans to come and negotiate with Libya, and we will not negotiate secretely with them. We are not a gang. States negotiate openly. We challenge them to negotiate openly with Libya. Even if they want to negotiate, they would say let us negotiate secretly. We are not a gang to negotiate secretly. If you are a gang, we are not a gang. It is the Israeli and Palestinian gangs that go to Norway or Denmark or I do not know where, in Oslo, to negotiate secretly. They are right, they are gangs: the Zionist Hagana or I do not know what gangs and the Palestinian armed

gangs. All gangs, and they have the right to negotiate secretly. They are all gangs struggling for Palestine. But we, independent states and members of the United Nations who do not negotiate secretly.

What right has America to supply the Israelis with weapons? Against who? They say: it is to strike the Arab Maghreb, the Gulf, Sudan. They said to the Israelis: We have now done away with the ring countries, and now we give you weapons. Yesterday we saw a report on 25 aircraft whose range attains the Arab Maghreb, Sudan, Yemen, the Arab Peninsula. [passage omitted]

The so-called Israel has admitted to possessing nuclear weapons, why then don't they treat it like Korea? Like the Rabta? This is not possible. The so-called Israel is exempt of article 7. No matter what crimes it may commit, which fall 100 percent under article 7, America cannot permit that article 7 is applied to Israel. Therefore, the charter of the UN is finished. [passage omitted]

Therefore, it is not a case of justice or injustice and legality or illegality. The UN Security Council member states have told us that the United States had threatened and told them to vote against Libya otherwise they would suspend economic aid to them; vote against Libya to get economic aid. It is like a judge going to witnesses and members of a court and threatening them, ordering them to pass unjust sentences or else. [passage omitted]

You hear statements made by the United States, Britain, and France; they say that Libya is against the international community. You three are against the international community and swimming against the current. You have been afflicted by conceit. However, this conceit will shatter on the rock of peoples' resistance and the Libyan people's [word indistinct]. This arrogance and superciliousness will escalate the resistance. This arrogance and audacity will inevitably shatter. We enter the battle with resilience, good patience, and unique courage. Let the battle between us and them continue until doomsday. They are the ones who are seeking quick profits and [word indistinct] without loss. They will lose in this battle. We are fighting on our land, while they are fighting outside their borders; in the seas, oceans, and continents. They are opening fronts to terrify the whole world.

As a matter of fact, this gathering of Libyan men of law, supported and backed by honorable men outside Libya in the Arab homeland and the world, is an extremely important message directed to America, France, and Britain precisely, the arrogant and leagued states that have trampled under foot international law, the sovereignty of peoples, the UN charter and conventions, which do not permit comparison between what is done against the Israelis and against the Arab countries. Double standards. This is an extremely important message if they respect world public opinion. But it should be made clear that it is they who are isolated. Setting aside the [word indistinct] between Libya and America, Britain and France, all the world stands on the side of Libya.

In reality they have served the Libyan people because the Libyan people were going along on their way, not paying attention. They have awakened you and told you that they wanted to harm you a second, third, and tenth time. They told you their ambitions have been continuous since Caesar's time, since the first century AD until today. They have warned you. In fact we thank them for warning the Libyan people, who were not vigilant. We have felt that their rifles were directed at the chest of each one of us. On a night like this, innocent young people were killed. Who blew up the the Berlin night club? In the end, it became clear that Libya had nothing to do with the Berlin nighclub. What should we do then about the dozens of young people who died that night? Does this mean that this is going to be repeated? Every Libyan is feeling that his child might be killed, that he might be killed, that his home might collapse on him at any time. He knows there is no Security Council any more, no United Nations or international law; there is a jungle. [passage omitted] We are resisting. Thank you. The struggle continues.

Withdrawal From Aouzzou Strip Reportedly Delayed

LD1704011794 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Libya has delayed the withdrawal of its troops from the Aouzzou Strip over which the International Court of Justice had declared the sovereignty of Chad. UN sources have said that the withdrawal operation which was planned for 15 April has been delayed until tomorrow. The committee in charge of monitoring the withdrawal of Libyan troops from the Aouzzou Strip is formed of two UN teams, a military team and a civilian one.

'Defecting' Officers Note Recent Rebellion, Coup Attempt

JN1804202594

[Editorial Report] London AL-HAYAH in Arabic, on page four of its 13 April issue, publishes an approximately 2,500-word report by reporter 'Ali al-Ruzz in Stockholm. The report cites interviews with three defecting Libyan officers, who are in a Scandinavian country after fleeing Libya when their military plot against the al-Qadhdhafi regime was discovered.

The report begins by saying that three Libyan officers managed to flee Libya after participating in the "October uprising" events. It adds: They are, perhaps, the only members of the secret military organization who escaped the arrests and managed to reach safety after having traveled for five months in Arab and foreign countries, and they are now members of "the National Front for the Salvation of Libya."

The three defecting Libyan officers, whom AL-HAYAH met in a Scandinavian country, are:

1. Lieutenant Colonel pilot Muhammad Bashir Salih, 36, born in Bani Walid, who joined the Libyan Army in 1978 and received training in Yugoslavia and Russia. He says that in 1988 he considered playing a role that would effect a change in Libya, and that he joined a secret military

organization led by Major 'Abd-al-Salam al-Wa'ir in 1991 after the latter talked to him about this organization.

2. Major 'Abd-al-Salam al-Wa'ir, 38, born in Bani Walid.

3. Captain Salim Dabnun Muhammad al-Wa'ir, 31, from Bani Walid.

Lt. Col. Salih points out that "the Libyan situation compelled me to think in this way because we do not have a state, institutions, laws, or a constitution." Discussing the role of the al-Warfallah tribe in the military rebellion, Maj. al-Wa'ir says: "The fact that most participants in this military action belong to the al-Warfallah tribe does not mean that other tribes did not take part." He adds: "As officers, we all agreed to hand the authority over to a civilian if our movement succeeded. He is Dr. Muhammad Yusuf al-Maqrif and he does not belong to the al-Warfallah tribe."

Regarding how this secret military organization was established, Maj. al-Wa'ir says that he was the first one who had the idea of establishing this organization. He adds: "Since my graduation in 1980, the Libyan Army has been sent on missions whose objectives were not known to us. We fought in Chad and Uganda, and in 1987 I stayed in Lebanon with the force of volunteers to champion the so-called the nationalist and Islamic forces and assist Palestinian organizations. In December 1988, I returned to Libya and briefed a group of officers on the idea of the organization. There were just five of us. Afterward, I went back to Lebanon in 1990, and I met with Colonel Mustafa Balqasim in an Arab state and briefed him on the organization. We agreed that he would act in one direction and I would act in another direction in absolute secrecy. I once again returned to Libya at the end of 1991, and finalized the establishment of the organization whose membership reached 10. I believe that the number of members in Mustafa's organization was similar to ours."

Discussing their story with the Salvation Front, Maj. al-Wa'ir indicates that in 1992 he briefed Col. Balqasim on the need to open a channel of communications with this front abroad because "it is the only effective faction, and because we received news about it through smuggled newspapers or radios, and also because the Front's members are known in Libya for their honesty and efficiency. Balqsim concurred."

Maj. al-Wa'ir adds that in 1993, a third organization led by Colonel Miftah Qarrum, who suffers from leukemia, joined the two organizations, and that "following several contacts and meetings, a plan of action was agreed, and was to be implemented no later than the spring of 1994. I agreed with Balqasim and Qarrum on the broad outlines of the program designed to topple the regime and on the transitional period. There was one objective; namely, to topple the regime and establish a democratic constitutional state."

Concerning the details of the coup attempt, Cap. al-Wa'ir discloses that, according to the plan of action, military units would move in Tripoli, Banghazi, Misratah, Tarhunah, Sabratah, and Gharyan. He also revealed that the targets of the coupists were the army command headquarters in Bab al-'Aziziyah, the intelligence directorate, the al-Jamahiriyah security commission, and centers belonging to a group of the Republican Guard battalions. However, he adds, the Libyan regime discovered the plan, so the coupists sought to implement the plan on 15 October but the arrests and confrontations with the regime began on 12 October, so the coup attempt failed.

The report cites Lt. Col. Salih as saying that on 12 October the Libyan military intelligence arrested Col. Miftah Qarrum, Col. Mustafa Balqasim, Major 'Ali al-Kakli, Major Khalil al-Jadak, Major Ramadan al-'Ayhuri, and other officers.

Concluding, the report cites Major al-Wa'ir as refuting the claims that the organization's officers recently shown on Libyan television were spying for the United States and stressed that these officers are honorable ones who were only agents working for Libya.

Morocco

Wrapup of Reports on GATT Meetings, Speeches, Results

Mexican Commerce Secretary Comments

PA1604202694 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 13 Apr 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Commerce ministers from 125 countries started a four-day meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, which will close with the signing of the GATT. This document is over 20,000 pages long and considered the most important commercial agreement in history. Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche is representing Mexico.

Moroccan Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed delivered a welcoming speech to open the meeting, which will conclude Friday with the signing of the final draft of the GATT. The crown prince arrived at 1000 sharp, representing his father, Hassan II. More than 120 representatives of GATT member countries arrived simultaneously at the Marrakech Convention Center to participate in the final meetings. The Mexican delegation was among them.

Speaking shortly before the plenum, Jaime Serra Puche, Mexico's secretary of commerce and industrial development, stressed important aspects of our times. He said that reciprocal commercial opening and greater competition among production plants [plantas] will prompt us to increase the scales of production and to redistribute revenue margins. This is how the Uruguay Round will promote the creation of new jobs and increase the salaries of our workers, he added.

[Begin Serra recording] Mexico is convinced that the new world commerce organization must focus on three main actions:

1. Deepening reciprocal commerce liberalization by eliminating barriers and distortions that are still standing in various productive sectors.

2. Updating and improving the various areas [disciplinas] of the multilateral system of commerce to rid them of unilateral measures and reverting protectionist trends.
3. Ensuring an appropriate interaction between the competition policy and commercial measures to fight unfair practices. [end recording]

Secretary Jaime Serra Puche also advocated respect for the environment and protection of labor rights.

U.S. Vice President, Others Comment

LD1504133194 Rabat MAP in English 1255 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Marrakech, Apr. 15 (MAP)—The U.S. Vice President Al Gore held a meeting here Thursday [April 14] afternoon with heads of Arab delegations to the GATT ministerial conference currently held in Marrakech. Al Gore discussed with his interlocutors the issue of the Arab boycott of Israel saying the lifting of the boycott will give a new momentum to the Middle East process in general and to economic cooperation in the region in particular, reliable sources said.

The US official told MAP at the end of the meeting that talks mainly focused on the Middle East peace process. 'This meeting was very positive and I appreciated this opportunity', the US Vice President said.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya who took part in the meeting on his part told MAP that the US official explained to the heads of Arab delegations the stand of the United States regarding the peace process. As to the Arab boycott of Israel, Ben Yahya said a decision on the matter falls within the Arab League competence and does not arise at the level of Arab states taken separately. It is a collective decision made in the Arab League context, the Tunisian official said adding that this issue is not only economic but has also a political dimension. The Arab world, he went on, is open to dialog and contributes to the peace process, Ben Yahya said expressing hope to see the peace process reach positive results and usher in a new regional order.

Eleven Arab countries are participating in the Marrakech conference namely Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.

GATT Official Briefs Press

LD1504133894 Rabat MAP in English 1303 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Marrakech, Apr. 15 (MAP)—The GATT ministerial conference to wind up this Friday in Marrakech Thursday unanimously adopted the decision on the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The conference also adopted decisions relative to trade and environment and the debts stemming from the implementation of the GATT accords.

This Friday, head of the delegations attending the conference are to sign five implements of the Uruguay Round, namely the final act of the round, the accord setting up the WTO, the accord on public projects, the accord on dairy produce and the accord on beef.

GATT Information Director David Woods said at a press briefing here Thursday the signing ceremony will be held in the afternoon and will be preceded by a meeting of the trade negotiations committee which is to adopt the declaration of Marrakech and ministerial decisions.

On the accord setting up the WTO, Woods said some countries will sign the accord without conditions while others will do it under the reservation of its ratification by their parliaments. He explained the non signing of this accord will have no legal incidence since all the countries signatory of the Uruguay Round final act committed to submit the accord for approval to the [words indistinct] competent authorities.

The other three accords, which are partially new, will be signed by some countries and the accord on public projects will be signed by 22 countries including those of the European Union under the reservation of ratification.

The accord on dairy products which dates back to the Tokyo negotiations and which was not renegotiated by the Uruguay Round will be signed by seven or eight entities, only, including the European Union on behalf of its member counories, Woods said adding the same is true for the accord on beef. Another implement, namely the accord on civil aircraft of 1979 will be presented for signing by GATT members, woods said.

Text of Uruguay Round Declaration

OW1504141794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1358 GMT 15 Apr 94

["Full text" of declaration adopted by GATT ministers in Marrakech, Morocco on 15 April]

[Text] Marrakech, Morocco, April 15 KYODO—Marrakech Declaration of 15 April 1994:

Ministers representing the 124 governments and the European communities participating in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, on the occasion of the final session of the trade negotiations committee at ministerial level held at Marrakech, Morocco from 12 to 15 April 1994,

Recalling the ministerial declaration adopted at Punta del Este, Uruguay on 20 September 1986 to launch the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations,

Recalling the progress achieved at the ministerial meetings held at Montreal, Canada and Brussels, Belgium in December of 1988 and 1990 respectively,

Noting that the negotiations were substantially concluded on 15 December 1993,

Determined to build upon the success of the Uruguay Round through the participation of their economies in the world trading system, based upon open, market-oriented policies and the commitments set out in the Uruguay Round agreements and decisions,

Have today adopted the following declaration

1. Ministers salute the historic achievement represented by the conclusion of the round, which they believe will strengthen the world economy and lead to more trade, investment, employment and income growth throughout the world. In particular, they welcome

—The stronger and clearer legal framework they have adopted for the conduct of international trade, including a more effective and reliable dispute settlement mechanism,

—The global reduction by 40 percent of tariffs and wider market-opening agreements on goods, and the increased predictability and security represented by a major expansion in the scope of tariff commitments, and

—The establishment of a multilateral framework of disciplines for trade in services and for the protection of trade-related intellectual property rights, as well as the reinforced multilateral trade provisions in agriculture and in textiles and clothing.

2. Ministers affirm that the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) ushers in a new era of global economic cooperation, reflecting the widespread desire to operate in a fairer and more open multilateral trading system for the benefit and welfare of their peoples. Ministers believe that the trade liberalization and strengthened rules achieved in the Uruguay Round will lead to a progressively open world trading environment, and express their determination to resist protectionist pressures of all kinds. Ministers undertake, with immediate effect and until the entry into force of the wto, not to take any trade measures that would undermine or adversely affect the results of the Uruguay Round negotiations or their implementation.

3. Ministers confirm their resolution to strive for greater global coherence of policies in the fields of trade, money and finance, including cooperation between the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank for that purpose.

4. Ministers welcome the fact that participation in the Uruguay Round was considerably wider than in any previous multilateral trade negotiation and, in particular, that developing countries played a notably active role in it. This has marked a historic step toward a more balanced and integrated global trade partnership. Ministers note that during the period these negotiations were underway significant measures of economic reform and autonomous trade liberalization were implemented in many developing countries and formerly centrally planned economies.

5. Ministers recall that the results of the negotiations embody provisions conferring differential and more favorable treatment for developing economies, including special attention to the particular situation of least-developed countries. Ministers underscore the importance of these provisions for the least-developed countries, and declare their intention to continue to assist and facilitate the expansion of their trade and investment opportunities. They agree to keep under regular review by the ministerial conference and the appropriate organs of the WTO the impact of the results of the round on the least-developed countries as well as on the net-food- importing developing countries, with a view to fostering positive measures to enable them to achieve their development objectives. Ministers recognize the need for strengthening the capability of GATT and the WTO to provide increased technical assistance in their areas of competence, and in particular to substantially expand its provision to the least-developed countries.

6. Ministers declare that their signature of the "Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations" and their adoption of associated ministerial decisions initiates the transition from GATT to the WTO. They have in particular established a preparatory committee to lay the ground for the entry into force of the WTO agreement and commit themselves to seek to complete all steps necessary to ratify the WTO agreement so that it can enter into force by 1 January 1995 or as early as possible thereafter. Ministers have furthermore adopted a decision on trade and environment.

7. Ministers express their sincere gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II for his personal contribution to the success of this ministerial meeting, and to his government and the people of Morocco for their warm hospitality and excellent organization they have provided. The fact that this final ministerial meeting of the Uruguay Round has been held at Marrakech is an additional manifestation of Morocco's commitment to an open world trading system and to its fullest integration to the global economy.

8. With the adoption and signature of the final act and the opening for acceptance of the WTO agreement, ministers declare the work of the trade negotiations committee to be complete and the Uruguay Round formally concluded.

King Hassan II Delivers Speech

LD1604141894 Rabat MAP in English 1253 GMT 16 Apr 94

["Full text" of speech by King Hassan II at the royal palace in Marrakech, Morocco on 15 April—all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Ministerial conference Marrakech, Apr. 16 (MAP)—King Hassan II, flanked by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, hosted Friday [April 15] at the royal palace here a banquet in honor of participants in the GATT ministerial conference held in Marrakech this April 12-15.

Here is the full text of the royal speech delivered before delegations of over 124 countries: "Mr. Chairman, honorable premiers, honorable ministers, Mr. Director General, honorable delegates, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

We, and the world at large with us, have just crossed a watershed, one of those decisive moments in history in which mankind unfailingly taps its wellspring of energy and psychological strength to launch a new grand design, conjure up hope of a brighter future and dispel the specter of despondency or disheartenment.

The atmosphere of this moment we are sharing calls to mind the unforgettable memory of the Anfa conference that took place in Casablanca in 1943, at which we had the privilege of accompanying his majesty our father, may God have him in his mercy. The purpose of the conference, attended notably by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, was to prepare the allied disembarkation in Europe, but it marked the beginning not only of the allies' long march to victory but also of the far-reaching movement of liberation of the people still under colonial rule.

Those men, whose action and abnegation restored freedom and democracy in the world, knew that the cessation of hostilities was not the same thing as peace, and that as the same causes will produce the same effects, they would be unable to establish enduring peace except in a setting favorable to lasting economic growth. The lessons they drew from the 1930s and in particular from the impact of protectionism on world-wide economic activity and security decisively shaped the drafting of the San Francisco Charter and the Bretton Woods Agreements. The aborted International Trade Organization would have rounded off the institutional framework for the multilateral management of the world economy, but the vagaries of politics dashed the hopes of those architects of the peacetime world.

Thus, we have had to wait almost half-a-century in order at last to manage to bring the privileges of power within the sway of law.

By bringing into being the world trade organization today, we are enshrining the rule of law in international economic and trade relations, thus setting universal rules and disciplines over the temptations of unilateralism and the law of the jungle. This collective profession of faith actually marks the end of the colonial pact and embodies genuine interdependence. Regardless of the size of our economies, from now on we shall all enjoy the same rights and be subject to the same obligations. we share the same goals and must meet the same challenges: Tackling the scourge of unemployment, redressing the problem of social exclusion, or finding appropriate ways of responding to our environmental or other concerns.

The fact that the trade negotiations that we have just solemnly concluded were launched in Punta del Este and ended in Marrakech, in other words, in two countries of the south, must be seen as heralding a new age in which the antagonisms between the industrialized and developing countries will fade away. The alliances forged during these negotiations between partners having different levels of development show that this process is now under way. It is up to us to deepen it and strengthen it.

The rise in the number of contracting parties, which lends a universal dimension to the agreements just signed, together with the aftermath of the fall of the Berlin wall, mark the end of the ideological cleavages that have hampered the smooth development of the world economy. Henceforth, four fifths of the world's population live in market economies and over a hundred countries have embarked on the privatization of public-sector enterprises.

Lastly, the fact that the Marrakech meeting coincides with the implementation of the agreements between the PLO and Israel is a good omen. Those agreements, enabling the Palestinian flag to fly over part of its territory, are the beginning of a process that will finally extinguish the oldest hotbed in the world.

All of this means that the world of tomorrow can scarcely resemble the one in which we have lived until today. Changing production systems and consumption patterns, the emergence of new multimedia technologies and the rapid growth of related services will further speed up the globalization of markets for goods, services and capital.

This globalization could herald greater inequalities among countries and aggravate the symptoms of social exclusion which may be observed in the rich as the less prosperous countries. It therefore calls for the creation and use of new machinery of collective solidarity as well as a new approach to economic and social development problems. The reason why many developing countries have courageously restructured their economies in order to integrate them better into the international economy is that they are convinced of the virtues of financial discipline and of the need to cushion the ensuing transitional social cost. This cost requires a counterpart from the developed countries in the form of corresponding adjustments favoring markets access and transparent conditions of fair competition, in particular through greater monetary stability.

The special situation of Africa deserves a particular attention. Morocco, a Muslim, Arab and African country, was a pioneer of emancipation movements in Africa and it is fully aware of the challenges to be faced. We must assess the situation with lucidity and admit that the results of forty years of independence are mixed. Of course mistakes have been made, successes have been achieved here and there, but no one can ignore the latent risks of a situation in which the imbalance in levels of development is so sharp. We must not misjudge the shape of the future nor the danger of excluding a whole continent from the global economy. After all the measures taken to save Africa, we should ask ourselves if the time is not ripe for a veritable Marshall plan to alleviate the poverty and suffering of millions of people."

"Mr. Chairman, honorable premiers, honorable ministers, Mr. Director General, honorable delegates, excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen,

When we invited you to consider signing the final act of the Uruguay round in Marrakech, an invitation which you did us the honor and pleasure of accepting, we were motivated by a number of important considerations.

To cite only some of them, for many centuries Marrakech has been a crossroads of trade and civilization between Africa and Europe and between the latter and the Arab world.

It was in Marrakech, in 1788, that the exchange of letters between Sultan Sidi Mohammed Ben 'Abdellah and George Washington led to the Kingdom of Morocco being the first nation to recognize the independence of the United States

of America. These texts are still in force and deal with peace, friendship, and freedom of navigation and trade.

It was also in Marrakech, in 1856, that an exchange of diplomatic instruments took place between Queen Victoria and Sultan Moulay Abderrahmane. The trade agreement which was the subject of this exchange set up the frame for the majority of treaties of the time. Its modernity and conformity with the rules and disciplines we have just adopted today would surprise many people: The most-favored nation clause was used in it for the first time.

Thus it is in one of the oldest trading nations in the world that the most complex and most important trade negotiations in history have been concluded.

By putting its signature beside those of the contracting parties present here, the Kingdom of Morocco is reaffirming a tradition of free trade from which it never swerved from its origin through the last world war.

This tradition is not simply confined to trade, but embraces the wider area of the options facing society. In adopting pluralism and prohibiting a single-party regime in its first constitution proclaimed upon independence, Morocco was fully aware of the fact that a truly liberal economic policy must first of all be based on the values of democracy, and of political and trade union pluralism.

Its steadfast determination to promote an economic system which gives pride of place to private initiative and the stimulus of equitable competition has allowed Morocco to follow the path of sustainable growth, remedy structural imbalances and attract foreign investment.

The experience we have gained over the centuries has allowed us to establish our vocation as a land of reflection, courage and innovation and has taught us the virtues of humility and the essential need for lucidity.

This leads us to conclude that, although the Marrakech agreements constitute a cornerstone of our common structure, they cannot be considered as an end in themselves.

These agreements should rather give us food for thought and spur our creative imagination for building a new international order.

We believe that the conditions have just been provided for a collective and calm reflection on the functioning of the global economy in the next century.

Trade is only one element in a trilogy in which monetary and financial issues are interdependent. The impact of the monetary policies followed by the major actors in the international economy often leads to counterproductive effects which jeopardize what has been achieved by our restructuring efforts.

In this respect, we propose studying with your respective heads of state the possibility of establishing an intergovernmental group to study the new mechanisms for international economic negotiations with a view to:

—improved coordination of action by the IMF, the IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development] and the WTO [World Trade Organization]

—a greater contribution by countries of the south to concerted implementation of a strategy to give the global economy a new impetus so as to come up with the appropriate response to the scourge of the twenty first century, which will be unemployment.

"Mr. Chairman, honorable premiers, honorable ministers, Mr. Director General, honorable delegates, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

We give thanks to God for having allowed our meeting to be one of those which, in contributing to international cooperation, widen its scope, strengthen its bases and consolidate its rules. The Marrakech charter which concludes this meeting is a further valuable contribution to the series of international conventions on which our world of today has based its unity, turning away from the causes of strife and enmity to become part of the cycle of relations promoting the reign of peace and understanding.

When Morocco expresses the pride it takes in having hosted the meeting, it simply is rightfully expressing its aspirations and its choice to always remain open onto the world and adhere to the principles of international cooperation.

We should all therefore welcome the gigantic step forward towards broader and more intensive international cooperation, this progress towards the international solidarity which we hope will be the hallmark of the next century. And more than any other promise, it is the confirmation of this solidarity that we hope for from the proposed new world order."

Uruguay Round Final Act Signed

LD1604145994 Rabat MAP in English 1319 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Marrakech, Apr. 16 (MAP)—Over one hundred nations have laid the foundations of a new world economic order that they wished to be more prosperous and just when they adopted here Friday the Uruguay round final act on the largest liberalization of world trade in history.

Morocco, the host country was the first to initial the documents and Zimbabwe was the last to append its signature on the final act concluding thus a signing ceremony that lasted for over four hours and during which the participating countries succeeded one another at the signing desk in English alphabetical order.

Besides the final act, the participating countries also signed the accord setting up the World Trade Organization as well as three accords on public projects, dairy products and bovine meat.

The participating countries to the negotiations which have not signed the documents Friday in Marrakech can do so in Geneva where the GATT is based when they wish.

Various Ministers Meet, Hold Talks

LD1604154994 Rabat MAP in English 1325 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Marrakech, Apr.16 (MAP)—Moroccan Privatization Minister Abderrahmane Saidi expounded to ministers attending the GATT ministerial conference which wound up Friday the privatization policy followed by the Moroccan Government.

At separate meetings he held with ministers from several countries, the minister said the privatization of state-owned enterprises associates both Moroccan and foreign capital. He also gave explanations on procedures of the transfer operations.

With the officials from Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Guinea Bissau, Canada, Congo, and Paraguay, talks covered means to attract foreign investors to the ongoing privatization program and it was also agreed to hold information meetings to this end.

A Moroccan governmental delegation led by Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani held a work session with Japanese foreign minister. The meeting looked into prospects of cooperation in the banking sector, as well as in energy, mining, industry, transports and fisheries. Moroccan-Japanese talks also examined the possibility of Japanese investments in Moroccan industrial sectors.

On his part, Minister of Sea Fisheries and Merchant Navy Mustapha Sahel had intense talks with several delegations to the meeting. He thus met Mauritanian minister of trade, handicraft and tourism, Spanish secretary of state of sea fisheries, Japanese vice-minister of agriculture, forests, and fisheries, American under-secretary of state for trade and Brazilian foreign minister.

The minister also took part, together with Premier Mohamed Karim Lamrani and other cabinet members, in a work session with Japanese Foreign Minister Hata. The meeting examined development of Moroccan-Japanese cooperation in fisheries. In this connection, a work session on expansion works and construction of ports in northern Morocco gathered Moroccan ministers of public works and vocational and executives training and of economy boosting and Romanian minister of external trade.

On his part, Minister of Trade and Industry Driss Jettou received South African minister of finance, trade, and industry who was accompanied by a special representative of the African National Congress. The African officials agreed to organize business trips for delegations of the two countries. Jettou then conferred with Malaysian minister of external trade and industry on economic and industrial relations between the two countries. The Malaysian official invited the Moroccan side to take part in the international fair to be hosted by her country next May.

As part of the intensive side meetings held by the Moroccan delegation, Moroccan Minister of External Trade, Foreign Investment and Handicraft Mourad Cherif received Chinese vice-minister of external trade and economic cooperation.

Moroccan-Thai cooperation was covered in a meeting between Minister in Charge of Economic Boosting Omar Kabbaj and Thai [word indistinct] of Trade Uthai Pinchaichon. The two sides agreed on the principle to set up a joint commission and to trade expertise in economic policy.

Minister of Agriculture Abdelaziz Mezian also received Chinese minister of external trade and economic cooperation with whom he reviewed cooperation prospects offered to the two countries where agriculture is a vital sector.

With Salvadorian minister of agriculture and fisheries, the Moroccan minister surveyed the policy followed by the two countries to diversify their produce and to develop exports of fresh products. In this regard, it was agreed to exchange expertise, mainly in matters of marketing techniques.

GATT Officials Hail Results

LD1604155694 Rabat MAP in English 1428 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Marrakech, Apr. 16 (MAP)—Chairman of the GATT conference Sergio Enrique Bonilla and GATT director general Peter Sutherland hailed here Friday [15 April] the conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

During a joint press conference, Bonilla and Sutherland underlined that the signature of the Uruguay Round final act in Marrakech is a historic step to world economic integration and towards the establishment of the international multilateral trading system.

Sutherland, who expressed conviction that the projected world trade organization will see the light next January 1st as initially scheduled, said the commitments expressed by every member country in the Uruguay final act are categorical.

To a question on the concerns of some developing countries that their economies will be negatively impacted by the new international trading system, the GATT director general underlined that the efficient contribution of developing countries to the conclusion of the Uruguay round is evidence to their trust in the viability of the multilateral system.

As to the situation of African countries, particularly sub-Saharan ones, Sutherland stressed that every individual country will draw benefits from the multilateral system, specifying that the African representatives who took the floor during the Marrakech conference underlined the paramount importance of the GATT accord for their respective economies.

Tackling the pending issues, the GATT director general explained that negotiations will be continued on these questions, particularly those related to financial services, the intellectual property and the audiovisual.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on GATT, Other Issues

LD1704021994 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Apr 94

["Text" of interview with Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, by an unidentified correspondent in Marrakech on 16 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In a statement to Moroccan television today Abdellatif Filali, the minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, said that Morocco's stance vis-a-vis the developments on the Saharan issue enjoyed international support. He also said that the GATT conference opened new doors to Morocco to extend the scope of its cooperation with various developed countries. Here is the text of the interview.

[Correspondent] Mr. Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation: The GATT conference ended here in Marrakech yesterday. You signed the agreement marking the birth of the international trade organization on behalf of the Moroccan delegation. First of all, what is your assessment of the results of the conference?

[Filali] As stated by his majesty in his speech yesterday, I believe that this was a very important international event. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mentioning the European Union [EU], how do you envision future relations between Morocco and the EU in the trade and, particularly, the agricultural spheres?

[Filali] On this particular point I would like to remind the Moroccan public, particularly those who have a specific profession in this field or direct trade with European markets, that within the scope of GATT there is an essential point, namely Point 24 in the GATT agreement which stresses that the regional agreements that hitherto exist will remain intact. By that I mean that Morocco's privileges with the European Community will not change. Therefore, let all Moroccans who have close and well-established relations with Europe be rest assured that there will be no change in that sphere. [passage omitted].

[Correspondent] We shall set aside the GATT conference and Moroccan-European relations and move to another question concerning our national issue. What is the government's view regarding the recent resolution passed by the UN Security Council, Resolution 907?

[Filali] I believe that it is necessary to discuss Resolution 809 before dealing with Resolution 907. In Resolution 809, the Security Council gave the UN secretary general a new prerogative in an attempt to bring about an agreement between the two sides with regards to the criteria and implementation. The negotiations were very tough, but finally we reached a positive result with the secretary general and accepted his proposals regarding the criteria and implementation. The Moroccan agreement took place this year. Since then, the secretary general personally, or his special envoy in the region, have been repeatedly trying to convince the other side of the need to get their endorsement of his proposal, namely compromise solutions regarding the criteria and their implementation. However, as stated in the secretary general's report, so far Morocco has provided every facility in its dealings with the secretary general and the general secretariat regarding the proposal, but there are pending problems. By that I mean the other side has so far not given a clear reply concerning the secretary general's proposal.

Therefore, it is farcical when we hear many mercenaries abroad saying that Morocco is responsible for the status quo; and it is necessary that the Moroccan and also international public opinion should be aware that the true culprit, who is mentioned in Resolution 907, is the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro]. In fact, this resolution does not concern us greatly because we have given our approval to the secretary general's reconciliation proposal this year. Therefore, when the Security Council says in this resolution that the voter identification commission is now committed to register all the people in the referendum lists, it means that from now until 30 June the Polisario has to give its final reply. [passage omitted]

I believe that our stance is correct and enjoys official and sensible international support. [passage omitted] Responsibility for what is taking place in the region lies with Polisario's stance and those who support its stance. This is what can be said now. I believe that our public opinion in Morocco is not confused about that because Morocco's position is getting stronger daily. Everyone believes that what is taking place in the international field is indicative that Polisario's stances and statements have lost credibility. It is empty talk. [passage omitted]

Accords With Russia To Promote Economic, Scientific Ties

LD1604153694 Rabat MAP in English 1405 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Goat, Apr. 16 (MAP)—Morocco and Russia concluded two accords providing for the creation of an intergovernmental commission for economic, scientific and technical cooperation and for a new frame of trade exchanges.

Under the first accord, a joint intergovernmental commission is to be set up to examine issues linked to bilateral cooperation, explore ways to develop and promote economic, scientific and technical relations and extend assistance to the two countries' enterprises concerned.

The renewable five year accord stipulates that the commission will meet al least once a year alternately in Rabat and Moscow.

The second accord sets a new frame governing trade exchanges between the two countries with a view to strengthening economic and trade relations between the two sides. In 1992, Moroccan-Russian trade exchanges amounted to 876 million dirhams and are expected to increase under the accord.

The two accords were initialled on the Russian side by Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Oleg Davydov and on the Moroccan side by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Taib Fassi Fihri and Minister of External Trade, Foreign Investments and Handicraft Mourad Cherif.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Clarifies Remarks on Contacts With U.S. Envoy

EA1804221994 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Apr (SUNA)—The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, has said in a statement to the AL-MULTAQA magazine that the government had earlier stopped its contacts with the American ambassador because of its indignation over his hostile statements. These came at a time when both sides, the Government of Sudan and the American Government, had agreed to resume their dialogue on the basis of frankness.

It is worth, mentioning that some news agencies had quoted the presidents statement imprecisely.

Official Comments on Saudi Hajj 'Limitations'

NC1904104094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of Sudan met with his Iranian counterpart in Tehran yesterday. During this meeting, the two sides called for the expansion of bilateral relations.

The Sudanese deputy foreign minister commented on the limitations by the Saudi Government on the quota of pilgrims to Mecca and on the need to examine problems faced by the world of Islam during the Hajj congress, and emphasized the significance of the religious and political aspect of the Hajj pilgrimage. The Sudanese deputy foreign minister stated: When the Saudis say that the quota for pilgrims from Islamic countries has been set by the Islamic Conference Organization, then this organization should also make all the decisions concerning the Hajj pilgrimage as well.

SPLA's Garang on Arms Supply, Other Issues

AB1804211194 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 18 Apr 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Excerpt] Things appear to be going from bad to worse for people in rebel-controlled areas of southern Sudan. Since the Khartoum government launched the dry season offensive, thousands of civilians have been forced to flee the war zone for neighboring countries. Most of them ended up in Uganda and the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebel movement appears to be on the retreat in the face of Sudanese Air Force bombing raids. The rebels claim that the National Islamic Front, NIF, is behind the recruitment of fresh troops to take part in some kind of holy war. Well, SPLA leader, John Garang, has just attended the seventh Pan-Africanist Congress which was held in Kampala, and William Wanendeya put it to him that things were going badly for his movement.

[Begin recording] [Garang] We are doing very well. We are a guerilla movement and we employ a multiplicity of tactics. If we don't need to defend ground, why defend it. Sometimes, the aim is to inflict as many casualties on the enemy as possible and I tell you the NIF, mujahedin, are dying like flies. So we are succeeding. It is true that the civil population is bearing the brunt of the NIF offensive because they are being bombed. As for the soldiers, they are in their trenches and foxholes but the civil population has no foxholes and no bunkers. That is the only tragedy but with respect to the war proper, the SPLA is invincible.

[Wanendeya] You've suggested that one of the problems is that the SPLA does not have many arms, does not have many lorries to transport its soldiers around. Now, recently there was the story that the SPLA was buying guns through Israel and the plane was stranded in Cyprus. Do you have any comments to make on this issue. Was this plane carrying arms for the SPLA?

[Garang] We wish it was. We never knew anything about the plane. The plane does not belong to us, if it is there at all. So, we have no knowledge of it. We only heard it over the BBC that there was a plane that was in Cyprus and the arms were intended for the SPLA. No arms were intended for us and you can take it from me. Because if anybody should know, I should.

[Wanendeya] What about this story that I have heard that you are receiving Stinger missiles from the American Government to shoot down antennae, high altitude antennae bombers.

[Garang] There is no truth whatsoever. I think the NIF is making these things up in order to mobilize resources from the fundamentalist Islamic world.

[Wanendeya] If I could ask you on a topic unrelated; where were you born in southern Sudan and how did you grow up?

[Garang] I was born in Bordie Street, Bokor, (Wanglor) village. I don't know exactly when, but I think it is 1945. What else do you want to know?

[Wanendeya] What did your parents do and what kind of early life did you live?

[Garang] My parents were peasants—cattle-rearers and cultivators just like any other southern Sudanese family. I lived until I was eight years at home, when I went to school. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Yemen

Al-'Attas' Trip Said 'Evasion' of Cabinet Meeting

JN1804174494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari and Faysal Makram in Sanaa and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Aden]

[Excerpts] Responsible political sources in Sanaa yesterday expressed their fear that Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas' visit to the United States for medical treatment is a political maneuver to impede the government sessions in Sanaa. [passage omitted]

Yemeni political quarters in Sanaa and Aden considered the sudden departure of al-'Attas, prime minister and member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], an evasion from holding the Yemeni Government meetings expected to resume in Sanaa next Wednesday [20 April]. The cabinet held a session in Aden three weeks ago and in Ta'izz one week ago.

These quarters say that the sudden departure of al-'Attas for medical treatment in the United States arouses suspicion, especially since the members of his government knew nothing about his trip for treatment, which he began the day before yesterday following his meeting in Aden with U.S. Ambassador to Yemen Arthur Hughes.

Yemeni political quarters, including members of the dialogue committee, expressed extreme concern about what it terms as al-'Attas' attempt to abort the role of the Yemeni coalition government in implementing the accord document and to abort the efforts aimed at reunifying the constitutional institutions in Sanaa. These quarters linked al-'Attas' trip with the visit to Britain by Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the YSP Political Bureau and the Presidential Council, following his Arab tour. The quarters considered this an evasion on the part of the YSP from the commitment to reunify the institutions in Sanaa, particularly the Presidential Council and the Cabinet. The Presidential Council was expected to convene in Sanaa in the presence of Salim Salih Muhammad following his Arab tour, during which he conveyed messages from YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid to a number of Arab leaders. [passage omitted]

YSP Official Interviewed on 'Stifling Crisis'

NC1704082594 London MBC Television in Arabic 1707 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, by Tawfiq Jazulit; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Jazulit] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad: We talk to you, as YSP [Yemeni Socialist Party] secretary general and member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, when Yemeni unity is experiencing a stifling crisis. That is why I want this dialogue to be frank. We hope we can learn what goes on in the mind of the YSP leadership. As you know, Yemen has just seen the Salalah meeting. Some believe it failed. Why did that meeting fail?

[Muhammad] Welcome to you and to MBC, which is putting Yemen's worries in front of the Yemenis and Arabs. The Yemeni issue interests not only the Yemenis, but all the Arabs and the world. This is due to what Yemen stands for and to its location in addition to the issue of unity and how to achieve it. This is a pan-Arab and national goal. Unity was peacefully, voluntarily, and democratically achieved in an approach contrary to that which was hitherto pursued and that believed that Yemeni unity could only be achieved through war.

We appreciate the feelings of our Arab nation, our friends, and our people. We must be frank when it comes to presenting the issues, hardships, and challenges the process of unity is encountering.

Everybody followed up the signing of the Pledge and Accord Document and the political dialogues held earlier to create it. There were domestic, Arab, and friendly efforts that helped Yemen, its parties, and its political mentality to work out that document.

This document stands for the collective aspiration common to all parties and categories in Yemen today. Everyone is convinced of its stipulations, although some are opposed to it or have some reservations about it. But it represents the national program, which everybody tries to implement in his own way. That is why there were various interpretations, particularly after the document was signed in fraternal Jordan, and why difficulties were encountered during that meeting.

There were efforts to arrange a meeting between the brother president and his vice president to halt the military developments that ensued, most notably on the day the document was signed. These developments have become the primary issues; they take priority over the issues specified by the document. The first issue in that document was the security problem, which has lately experienced many developments. This issue has not been tackled. Hence the Salalah meeting.

I can frankly say that the phrasing was not carried out in the desired manner. There was no paper specifying the nature and agenda of the meeting. We hoped the meeting would be held to halt military developments, eliminate barriers and, thus, reverse any development leading to [word indistinct] in Yemen.

[Jazulit] There are questions regarding implementation of the Pledge and Accord Document that you all signed in Amman. The opposition accuses the YSP of resorting to particular political tactics to avoid signing and implementing it. This stance is clear in one case: An agreement was reached within the framework of the national dialogue committee to attend—in your capacity as a member of the Presidential Council—a meeting of the Presidential Council in Sanaa at the same time as a Cabinet meeting in Aden chaired by Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. You agreed to attend the meeting but then you changed your mind. This seemed to be the reason for [words indistinct]. What are the real reasons for not

responding to the national dialogue committee decision regarding your meeting in Sanaa?

[Muhammad] It is a Yemeni characteristic that sometimes, the opposition and the authorities agree fully or differ to the point of [word indistinct]. Our party has good relations with the opposition political parties. Our party was the first to raise the idea of broadening the political dialogue. You may remember that the parties of the coalition insisted on solving their problems within the framework of the ruling coalition. Our party broached this idea to expand the dialogue and political and popular participation in this committee. The opposition joined this committee. We made a decision that any agreement reached by this committee would be binding [words indistinct]. When we attended the Amman meeting, which was attended by Jordanian brothers, notably His Majesty King Husayn, the Yemeni president and vice president, and the opposition parties, of whom I remember Shaykh [name indistinct], Shaykh Mujhid Abu-Shawarib, and the Reform Grouping secretary general [sentence incomplete as heard] At this one meeting, which failed, the YSP proposed a working paper relating to the Document of Pledge and Accord to implement it according to a timetable and mechanism. The working paper was rejected by our brothers in the General People's Congress. So we differed and afterward the paper was submitted to the national dialogue committee. This paper includes interrelated issues. At its meeting in Aden, the national dialogue committee approved every measure relating to security. The committee formulated its views and submitted its recommendations. Afterward, when the committee discussed merging the institutions, it automatically approved my attending the Presidential Council meeting. I received no agenda, although discussion of the document should be instructed by the Council of Ministers. The main issue for us was implementation of the document. We believe the security issue is the main thing and the practical approach to normalizing (?relations). If this issue is settled, then the institutions in both parts of Yemen can be merged and things will return to normal. But this has not materialized. You hear daily that security is worrisome, particularly in the capital. There is indeed a need for intensive and bold efforts to help us normalize security. First, we must hand over the personnel who disturbed security and those who stand behind them to the judiciary to issue its verdict. This issue relates to the normalization of relations. The situation in the establishment charged with security must be corrected. If not, this establishment will not help to restore security. As things stand, this establishment cannot perform its duty. We can attend any meeting and participate in any effort to address this issue. Otherwise the situation will remain the same [words indistinct] and ignore the document.

[Jazulit] So as far as you are concerned, the current security situation is a barrier to realizing unity as stipulated by the Amman agreement. Some believe the situation the Yemenis are experiencing has nothing to do with unity. First, your party leadership sits in Aden. You have left Sanaa, the capital. You have not united either the Army or the currency. So you are not experiencing unity, but division, which has become a fait accompli. What is left of this unity?

[Muhammad] The only thing left is popular unity. There is movement between the two parts. But I agree with you that the army is divided and that there are two currencies, two capitals, and two administrations. These are the conditions that prompted us to review the course of our unity. This is the suffering that has made us propose 18 points, participate in formulating the document effectively, and attempt to present the issues of the people. We do not know what sort of unity we are in. Some propose that we must formulate a merger unity. We believe the situation needs to be rectified and reviewed. This is why we have tried very hard to have the Pledge and Accord Document contain all the issues that lead to rectifying this course. This is a course that has not made us feel unity, except in the united anthem and flag, and sometimes in the united representation in the [word indistinct]. This is why the document must be implemented. We know time will not help us. The crisis will create harsh conditions if it continues too long, like this. [words indistinct] I personally believe that things will become even more complicated.

[Jazulit] Within the framework of the negative repercussions of unity in Yemen, you, the leadership of the YSP in Aden, suspect that religious extremism will increase. Do you not believe your party is responsible for the failure of unity in Yemen, as is the GPC [General People's Congress], which was your ally in making the unity decision between the two parts, the north and the south. The failure of your party and the GPC dissatisfied the Yemeni people. It also helped to develop extremism in Yemen. How could you reconcile between the process of solving the unity problem in Yemen and confronting extremism, as you called it, while you are the ones responsible for this problem?

[Muhammad] Our party is undoubtedly responsible historically, whether in working to establish unity among the Yemeni people or in the failure of this unity. Undoubtedly, our party is a partner and participant in this historic process. But the truth that has been confirmed by fact—and no one can refute it—is that the party has played its role in trying to preserve this unity. It presented a great deal. In my evaluation, there is no party in power in this day and age, according to my modest information, that pays daily, in martyrs and dead from among its cadres and leaders, while acting as an essential participant in power. It enjoys leadership in the Army and the Administration. This party can also do the same things. But the party has categorically stated that going down such a route is fatal and cannot solve problems. This is why we have tried, since unity was established, not to be dragged into this conflict.

Of course, some sides may have felt the party was weak. They played some [word indistinct] cards. They thought these cards could realize greater gains for them, not only in dissolving the unity of the party, but also in weakening the relationship between the party and its supporters. So they started resorting to various methods, which I do not have the time to explain in detail here. In general, I believe that in light of the circumstances of Yemen and our limited potential, we have done everything within our means to maintain unity and allow it to succeed. We have done

everything to start the course of democracy, which is the new phenomenon in our life, whether with regard to Yemen or the Arab region.

Proceeding from this, I believe that dialogue with the Reform Grouping is one of the issues that concern the party. We believed that through this course and our attempts to gather all the political currents and set aside all their programs, views, and differences, we could, in light of the situation in Yemen, the unity, and the people's aspirations, create what we have called the Yemeni character, the Yemeni edition. This consists of making the left, the right, and the center start united coalition action [words indistinct]. We have tried to learn from the Algerian lesson. We have tried to learn from our mistakes. We have also tried to do something new that can be added to the unity and democracy process we have started. Unfortunately, there are some mentalities that are below such levels of thinking. They have harmed unity, democracy, and the outstretched hands. They started adopting two kinds of terrorism: physical terrorism represented in cutting off roads, killing people, and creating a state of terrorism and mental terrorism, judging people as heretics and issuing fatwas on agents, as well as resorting to the mind-set of the sixties and seventies, which consists of falsely accusing others if they do not agree with their opinion.

Thus, we bear our responsibility toward rectifying the situation and toward the mistakes and emotions affecting us in realizing unity quickly and without any settling of accounts. We went to Sanaa with one thing in mind—that the others are of a particular standard. But time has proven that this standard, unfortunately, is not there.

[Jazulit] A trend within your party says that YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid unilaterally decided to go ahead with the unification process. This same trend is now opposing the continuation of unity saying that the circumstances are still not right. How influential is this trend within the YSP?

[Muhammad] We are a real party, one that interacts with its members and leaders. Any decision is made through the party's institutions ...

[Jazulit, interrupting] Is it true that al-Bid made the unity decision unilaterally?

[Muhammad] It was not a unilateral decision. As you know, unity was one of the party's concerns and strategic issues when it was in power in the south. The same applied to the other part in the north [words indistinct]. Our leadership was united. For us, unity will remain a fateful issue. But what kind of unity do we want? The YSP formed a team that continued to study the issue for one year. The team made recommendations and proposals regarding unity. It offered several options, including a federation and a confederation. But developments and circumstances dictated that policy, namely, that we sign the 30 November agreement and adopt the existing Constitution, which we are still adopting. The YSP secretary general made no unilateral decision, as some people are claiming; the decision was made through consultations with the leadership—the Political Bureau [words indistinct], and the Central Committee. I remember that day when brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih came to Aden and was received by brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid. The Central Committee of our party was in session and we were discussing that particular subject. We in the YSP make no unilateral decisions; we always refer to the party's institutions when we make fateful and important decisions.

[Jazulit] You did not answer the essence of my question, brother Salim Salih Muhammad. There is undoubtedly a trend within your party saying that unity cannot continue because the circumstances are not ripe. How strong is this trend on the level of the leadership, the cadres, and the members of the party?

[Muhammad] I am not exaggerating if I say that our situation has never been better as far as trends, wings, and blocs are concerned. We are now in agreement on national issues more than ever. We have no trends against these issues, among the leaders, or the base. But opinions are expressed by this person or that or this group of brothers or that. Now we are expanding democracy in the life of the party and society. We are dealing with things through dialogue and we make decisions through dialogue. What is happening now is that some people are proposing rectifying unity's course. They express their views and we discuss them within the framework of the party's institutions. These days, we are discussing a host of issues in the Central Committee. We are trying to find the right thing and convince each other about the best formula the party should offer and deal with [words indistinct]. We must not restrict ourselves or reject opposing views regarding these issues because we do not want to repeat past mistakes. We, therefore, accommodate this [word indistinct] and do not have trends in the old sense of the word, that is, that a particular trend has a particular opinion and will triumph and the other trend will lose. All the trends must coexist within dialogue to formulate the right position for the party.

[Jazulit] Arab mediation has been expanding. What is the essence of this mediation?

[Muhammad] From the beginning, we have welcomed every initiative by our Arab brothers. We deal with this mediation. At first, the Jordanian and Omani brothers helped, whether through the military committee or the political dialogue. The initiatives produced the known results. I would like to thank the Omani and Jordanian brothers and also the friends, whether [words indistinct] for their role in defusing tension and calming the military situation. But the crisis was oversimplified, and this is perhaps what foiled the meetings and efforts. We insist on an intensive Arab role. We do not feel shy about saying that the brothers in Saudi Arabia are concerned with Yemen's developments, and we ask for their help. The brothers in Oman, the Gulf states, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and all Arab countries are also concerned. Yemen is part of the region, and what happens here concerns the Arab brothers. Arab efforts should be effectively redoubled, first, to prevent a civil war that would have dire consequences for the Yemeni people and unity [word indistinct], and second, to help normalize the situation. The security issue is integrated: Yemen is facing an organized international terrorism practiced by the international fundamentalist movement, which has its centers and sources of

finance. So what happens in Yemen does not concern Yemen alone. [Words indistinct] Yemen began to export some trouble to fraternal and friendly countries.

[Jazulit] In view of the unity crisis and its complications, some alternatives have been proposed. I remember that when the crisis started you proposed the alternative of federalism. This option was strongly opposed by the GPC and the Islamic Reform Grouping. Now you are again proposing federalism. Where does federalism stand now as an alternative to the Yemeni crisis?

[Muhammad] This idea should have been discussed. When we proposed this idea, before the document was signed, it was supposed to be an alternative that could have been discussed. When I was asked about it, I said that we are ready and willing to discuss any alternative that could rectify the course of the country and the situation in it, including the issue of federalism. Of course, the thinking prevalent among the older generations is fixed in many ways. If there is a warning or statement that does not agree with the accepted concepts imprinted in the Arab political mind, they will automatically reject it and categorize it into different things. Therefore, this idea was buried right from the start. We know that the document [word indistinct] addressed some 70-80 percent of this issue in my estimation ...

[Jazulit, interrupting] What do you mean? How come?

[Muhammad] The document addresses the issue of provinces for local government. In Yemen, we could have anywhere between four and seven provinces. They have full powers, except for judicial authority and nominating portfolios for the Cabinet. The federal situation or the known unity conditions—I do not want to delve into detailed explanations; I will neglect its legal aspects and the characteristics that could [words indistinct]—led us to understand that there will be local governments. There is also a general framework for maintaining the sovereignty of the homeland, Yemeni patriotism, the united economy, and legislation. There are all these issues. We are really trying to strengthen this unity as we explained at the beginning of the interview and to clarify its various aspects. It is truly regrettable. The document was set out and now, as a party, we are proposing that the real introduction to realizing this goal is possibly local government and [words indistinct]. As I said, the inherent contents of this document are the federal unity that we proposed.

[Jazulit] Let us go back to the beginning of the crisis. The Amman summit failed. Then the Salalah meeting failed. There are preparations now for a summit that might convene in Cairo during the coming few weeks. Has a date been set for this meeting or for such a summit?

[Muhammad] There is no invitation to such a meeting or summit. But there are calm and important preparations to avoid making the same mistake as previous preparation, such as in Amman and [word indistinct].

[Jazulit] Is there a bilateral agreement between the YSP and the GPC over points on which to agree before going to Cairo so that you do not fall into the same trap you fell into in Amman, for example?

[Muhammad] We feel that the Egyptian and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] roles, as well as the Arab role, despite [words indistinct] political presence, and even though some Arab countries rule out implementation of any decisions—the Arab role has clearly tried to politically support the Egyptian and UAE roles—have been trying from the beginning to diagnose the issues. At the same time, they work on proposing solutions and preparing for a meeting that will really be a success. We believe this is good work.

[Jazulit] You continue to ask the Arab countries in general to work on salvaging what can be salvaged from Yemeni unity. This is something you have confirmed often. What are the concessions that the YSP could make to guarantee the continuation of unity and its success? We mean building the structures of unity. You must make some concessions if you really want unity. What are the concessions that you might make if you go to Cairo for a meeting?

[Muhammad] Our party has made every possible concession, especially big concessions. It abandoned power; it went to Sanaa.

[Jazulit] But you are still in power.

[Muhammad] What power are you talking about ...

[Jazulit] You, in Aden, are still in power, as is the president in Sanaa.

[Muhammad] You know the situation we are in. All those inside and outside Yemen know our situation. Our party, as I said, might have worked and sacrificed for the big aim or it might have committed a naive political act. But all this is not very important. We are very ready to make concessions and to have a new government for example. We are ready to work to rectify issues. We are ready to concede our right as individuals or a party but we cannot make concessions over issues that define the fate of unity and the future of the generations. This is a matter over which we can make no concessions. If we made any concessions over it, we would be abandoning our credibility toward our people, our friends, and everyone.

[Jazulit] Do you believe that the awaited Cairo summit could yield some positive results if you make use of the negative aspects of the Amman and Salalah summits?

[Muhammad] There are efforts we appreciate a great deal. We address them and interact with them, not just on our level. We also try to exchange trust with other parties so as to render these Arab efforts a success. I believe the Egyptian and other brothers now have a comprehensive analysis of the nature of the crisis. They could help Yemen overcome the stage of fighting as a first step. After that, we need to work jointly with everyone and all the parties to bury such thinking. Second, we can start rectifying the course of unity, which would calm the various parties.

[Jazulit] We thank you for this meeting.

'Source' on Contracts for Oil Exploration

JN1804162194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Article by Randah Taqiy-al-Din in Paris]

[Text] An informed French source has told AL-HAYAH that the two French oil companies, Elf Aquitaine and Total, can now sign a contract on oil exploration and development in the Iraqi oil fields of Nahr 'Umar, Total's area of operations, and Majnun, Elf Aquitaine's area of operations, despite the international embargo clamped on Iraq.

The source added that the contract, after it is signed, will only be implemented after the post-embargo phase. He said that signing a contract that cannot be immediately implemented does not require a political decision but a decision by the two companies.

The source pointed out that the only obstacle to signature now is the fact that negotiations with the Iraqi side have not yet ended, especially with regard to the terms of participation in exploration and development in the two oil fields. He explained that the visit to Paris by an Iraqi oil delegation led by Tahir Hammud, the Iraqi deputy oil minister, was confined to reviewing technical issues and that no actual negotiations were held between the two sides. He said that if the embargo on Iraq is lifted, it would take approximately two years before production begins in the Nahr 'Umar and Majnun oil fields. He described the production capacity of the two oil fields as important.

It is noteworthy that several French officials were eager to reiterate that despite these negotiations and talks no oil contract would be signed with Iraq as long as the international embargo is valid.

In another development, Lee Hamilton, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, has accused President Bill Clinton's administration of violating the economic embargo imposed on Iraq by indirectly purchasing fuel from Iraqi oil refineries for use in transportation and heating purposes in Kurdish areas in northern Iraq.

Foreign Minister Views U.S. 'Conspiracy,' Blockade

NC1804170094 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 11 Apr 94 p 8

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has warned against the danger of the U.S.-Zionist scheme against the Arab world. He noted that this ill will is not directed against Iraq alone because the imperialist scheme is targeting all Arab states.

In an interview with AL-'ARABI, al-Sahhaf said that proof of this scheme is that the Iraqi Government was about to conclude an agreement with the Kurdish parties to promote autonomy but the U.S. Administration, as Barzani has admitted, prevented these parties from concluding the agreement, which was in the interest of Iraq's Kurds.

Al-Sahhaf accused Washington, Tel Aviv, and some Arab parties, including Kuwait, of backing gangs in northern Iraq to maintain the abnormal situation there, partition Iraq, and conspire against it. He stressed that the Iraqis are aware of the goals of these schemes and are prepared to confront them.

Al-Sahhaf revealed the U.S. hostile acts that seek to shake Iraq's unity and undermine its national sovereignty. He noted that the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq are nothing but a U.S. conspiracy concocted by a decision that runs contrary to the Security Council resolutions, as UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali himself has admitted. He pointed out that between the time that the no-fly zone was enacted in southern Iraq and last year, U.S. and British aircraft have made more than 25,535 violations of the Iraqi airspace in the south, using the bases and facilities provided by the Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes.

The Iraqi minister stressed that what Iraq is being subjected to is not related to the issue of Kuwait or the implementation of the international resolutions but is a conspiracy led by the United States to achieve obvious political goals. He pointed out that Iraq has fully cooperated with the United Nations and has implemented its resolutions, particularly Resolution 687. Under the mutual obligations included in Paragraph 22 of this resolution, the UN is supposed to lift the economic blockade unconditionally.

Al-Sahhaf refuted the allegations and accusations about the existence of Iraqi weapons. He stated that Iraq does not possess any prohibited weapons and that it has gotten rid of any of the weapons mentioned in Resolution 687. Referring to reports by the UN special committee, al-Sahhaf noted that Iraq has cooperated with the inspection committees and has agreed to long-term monitoring programs to speed up the lifting of the embargo.

The Iraqi foreign minister referred to the great change in the stances of a number of Security Council members in light of the great strides made by Iraq in complying with and implementing the international resolutions. He said that the Security Council debates and the review of the blockade at its recent session indicated a great change in the stances of the majority of the member states in favor of Iraq. He noted that France, China, Russia, and other nonpermanent member countries such as Brazil, Rwanda, the Sultanate of Oman, and Spain demanded that the blockade be lifted.

The Iraqi minister regretted deeply the continued U.S. influence in formulating international resolutions. He said that the United States pushed the Security Council to continue the blockade despite its effects on public health, especially women and children, to achieve its objectives of bringing the Iraqi people to their knees and annihilating them. He warned the world of the gravity of the crime against the Iraqi people. He said that keeping Iraq's funds frozen in Western banks and institutions has deprived Iraq of the opportunity to use these funds to import medicine and food. The minister added that this collusion reflects the hostile and criminal campaign of annihilation unprecedented in history to which the Iraqi people are being subjected and that is being led by known international

parties. He said that the reports of the international bodies WHO and UNICEF very clearly point to the U.S. crime in Iraq.

Al-Sahhaf denied that there are Kuwaiti prisoners or missing persons and reiterated that there are no Kuwaitis in Iraq. He said that Iraq has cooperated positively with the Red Cross and the Arab League on this issue. He accused Kuwait of continuing to exploit the issue, pointing out as evidence that Kuwait has not approved or responded to all the Arab initiatives, including a Gulf initiative that tried to close the file on these claims that are used against the Iraqi people.

Referring to Iraqi-Egyptian relations, Foreign Minister Sa'id al- Sahhaf said that his country has a sincere desire to develop the relationship that transient crises cannot destroy, although they have "frozen" them for a short period. He added: This is why we were anxious to maintain "interest section" offices in the two capitals.

'Aziz Reviews 'Unjust' Embargo, Other Issues

JN1904092894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2005 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has said those who planned and carried out the aggression against Iraq, those who took part in it, as well as those who have imposed the embargo on Iraq, want the Iraqis and others who believe in Arabism in the Arab world to abandon their belief in their principles and their adherence to their cause. They also want to bring the nation to its knees and make it surrender to their will and wishes.

Addressing delegations taking part in the Baghdad meeting of Arab journalists, organized by the Iraqi Journalists Association, 'Aziz said: This meeting in Baghdad boosts the morale of all of us and sends a signal to imperialist forces and those collaborating with them that their hopes and aspirations will not be achieved.

'Aziz added: The meeting in Baghdad at this time in particular and in this holy month has a special importance and a great symbolic meaning because it takes place after years of the aggression and the unjust embargo against Baghdad, which still represents a bright center of patriotism and nationalism and a bulwark that believes in the nation's issues that have a bearing on its destiny.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz added that the basis of any political or diplomatic activity is steadfastness and adherence to patriotic and nationalistic principles. He pointed out the major reasons for the change in the international position on the question of the unjust embargo against Iraq, attributing this primarily to the steadfastness of Iraq and its leadership and their firm adherence to national and pan-Arab principles.

The deputy prime minister added that the aggression against Iraq did not bring Iraq to its knees, as the enemies had planned and dreamed. The embargo has also not made the leadership and the people of Iraq abandon the national and pan-Arab principles in which they believe and for which they have struggled. He underlined in this regard the reconstruction campaign, which has not been a purely technical process. He said the reconstruction process was launched by a decision from the leadership. However, the people took part in making this decision and implementing it. This means that the entire population rejects the threat of former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the U.S. scheme and is sending a clear message in this regard.

Tariq 'Aziz added: The reconstruction process is a great act of jihad, which remarkably demonstrated the creativity of the Iraqis and reflected the people's resolve to reject aggression. This also reflects the strong relationship and harmony between the leadership and the people.

Tariq 'Aziz added: Steadfastness, success in reconstruction, and the strong relationship between the leadership and people are all behind the aggression states' reconsideration of their positions and their listening to Iraq. The steadfastness of the Iraqis made all the facts come out in the open. The strong relationship between the leadership and the people has become clear for all, including the enemies.

In his comprehensive conversation with Arab journalists, Tariq 'Aziz reviewed developments in the international arena and the national and pan-Arab constant principles in Iraq's policy, whether before or after the aggression. He said Iraq sticks to its option to live.

He further explained the current split in the Security Council toward many issues, saying this points to the decline of U.S. hegemony. This means that the forces that have faith in their central causes are gaining more ground.

'Aziz also discussed the material and historical losses of some countries that took part in the aggression and the embargo against Iraq, saying these countries have started to feel that they have lost more than the bribes and rewards they gained, and this is an important fact.

'Source' on Diplomats Assassinating Opposition Leader

PM1804111494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Two Diplomats Admit Assassinating Iraqi Oppositionist"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, Paris, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—An authoritative Lebanese source has said that the two Iraqi attaches detained on charges of assassinating Iraqi oppositionist Shaykh Talib Suhayl al-Tamimi in Beirut yesterday admitted killing the person in question on orders from Iraqi authorities. They also stressed during their interrogation in a police center in Beirut that they received the order to kill Shaykh Talib during their meeting with the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Beirut.

According to well-informed sources, the two Iraqi diplomats will stand trial in Beirut if Iraq agrees to the Lebanese request to lift their immunity in accordance with the Geneva convention signed in 1961. [passage omitted]

Mourning Period Slated for Helicopter Incident

NC1504174594 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Dear listeners, we have just received the following statement from the presidential council of the Kurdistan region on the destruction of the two helicopters in the airspace of Kurdistan:

O esteemed citizens, o masses of our struggling people; on 14 April, two helicopters belonging to the coalition states, which were entrusted with defending the security of Kurdistan, were destroyed when they were fired upon by mistake by coalition fighter planes. The incident left all the passengers of the two helicopters dead.

As a sign of our appreciation for their sacrifice and spirit of cooperation in the service of human rights and democracy in Kurdistan, we have decided to declare a three-day general mourning period, effective today, 15 April. Prayers will be performed in all mosques and bells will be tolled in all churches for this painful event.

All media networks in Kurdistan shall comply with this decision.

Ministry of Justice Cables World Bodies on Embargo

JN1604194194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA)—The Ministry of Justice has urged organizations and bodies connected with international law and the defense of human rights and freedoms to work toward lifting the unjust embargo against Iraq.

In cables to these organizations, the Ministry of Justice said Iraq has fulfilled its obligations under Section C of Security Council Resolution 687. The Security Council should therefore implement Paragraph 22 of this resolution and lift the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people. The ministry noted that the continuation of the embargo is a blatant violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions.

Paper Questions Hypothesis of Russia's Decline

JN1604143994 Baghdad INA in English 0815 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 16, INA—An Iraqi paper said that those saying that Russia has ended as a super power should reconsider their calculations and the way of thinking.

The community of independent states summit yesterday authorized Russia to send forces to any part of the world without prior permission from the United Nations.

The paper "BABIL" said that this authorization indicates several realities, prominent among which is that Russia has started restoring influence over the former Soviet republics, the manner that means an increased international weight for Russia. It added that this also means that Russia rejects the idea of minimizing its role and turning it into a subordinate power to the United States.

The Iraqi paper said that this shift also indicates the fall down of hypothesis saying that Russia does not possess the economic and political weight to perform the role of the superpower which was originally propagated by the United States for the sake of pushing world peoples and Russia itself to a state of desperation and surrender.

The paper added that despite the disintegration and collapse of the Soviet Union as planned by the United States, Russia remained cohesive and maintained a spirit of resistance and challenge to return to the international arena.

The paper further said that the new Russian attitude means a message of warning to the United States saying it should stop at a certain point and also ushers a signal of a possible return to the Cold War because the new language of Russia implied meanings of concern to the United States, foremost among which is that factors influencing the future of Russia were internal and not external.

Rabin, Netanyahu Address Knesset Summer Session

Rabin Gives Speech

TA1804145094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew 1304 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the opening of the Knesset summer session in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Honorable Knesset, last week we celebrated the 46th anniversary of Israel's establishment and independence. We return to routine today, but we can all look back with pride and to the future with great hope. They were 46 hard years of struggle for a life and the building an economy and society, which led to the State of Israel's great achievements. Despite flaws, Israel is today one of the most exciting, beautiful states, a good place to live. I would like to take the opportunity of the opening of the summer session of the Knesset to congratulate the citizens on Independence Day. Members of the Knesset, this Independence Day was celebrated in the shadow of terrorist attacks, including one which took place only a short time before the Remembrance Day siren for those who fell while fighting in the country's wars. Five citizens and soldiers were killed in the explosion caused by a bomb at Hadera's central bus station. The bomb was placed by a contemptible murderer, a member of Hamas, who apparently chose to die with his innocent victims. This assembly and the entire country join to mourn with the families of the fallen. We wish to console them in their grief. This assembly and the government also wish the wounded a speedy recovery.

Mr. Speaker, honorable Knesset, last September we embarked on a new path in an attempt to turn a page in the bloody history between Jews, later Israelis, and Palestinians. We decided not to settle former accounts; to forget the bloody past and the hatred; to try to create a new, better future for both peoples whose historic fate has ruled that they live on the same land. We came with a desire to make peace, and I must tell the members of the Knesset that we also found a readiness for peace by the other side, the Palestinians, who have also suffered for generations. Neither we nor the Palestinians will receive all that we want, since that is the nature of negotiations, that is the nature of compromise, that is the nature of peace.

The negotiations with the Palestinians on Gaza-Jericho First continue, and in my view, we are at an advanced stage. I hope that it will be possible to conclude these negotiations within a short while. We believe that a short time after the signing of the agreement, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the security forces will be able to complete their redeployment. In other words, in the wake of the Gaza-Jericho First negotiations, the attempt to create coexistence and peace with the Palestinians will be tested. I tell you that I wait for the moment that as the defense minister I will feel freer not to send IDF soldiers to patrol Greater Gaza, towns with a population of 250,000 Palestinians, the refugee camps, Khan Yunus, Rafah, Dayr al-Balah.

I would like to clarify in the wake of published reports, whether true or not, that any agreement or understanding between the PLO and Hamas on continued Hamas terror with the PLO's approval will preclude any possibility of agreement between Israel and the PLO. Members of the Knesset, this government promised to make every effort for peace, and plans to continue the talks with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. Toward the end of April or early May the bilateral talks in Washington will resume, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher will probably arrive in the region to prepare the talks and allow us to progress toward signing peace treaties between Israel and its neighbors. In the peace talks with the Syrians, we have so far not found the appropriate level of openness and flexibility that would permit a breakthrough and facilitate a real discussion on a peace treaty. Our friends the Americans, who so much want to see peace in our region, have so far also failed in their efforts. At the same time, the government's position is known: We are making a great effort that the precedent Israel paid for peace with Egypt—a total withdrawal and the uprooting of all signs of an Israeli presence—will not repeat itself as a condition for peace with Syria. Simultaneously, we are preparing seriously for the negotiations and preparing for various alternatives regarding the nature of peace. These preparations include: the depth of withdrawal on the Golan Heights; security arrangements, and the phases in which peace is implemented. By doing so there will be time to evaluate the normalization process before we complete our withdrawal on the Golan Heights, and consider what will we demand from our friend the United States in the wake of the peace. If and when we reach a reasonable agreement with the Syrians, and the agreement will require a significant withdrawal, we will hold a national referendum, and the people will decide.

The negotiations with Lebanon entail negotiations with the Syrians since we know that Beirut will not make a move without permission from Damascus. Nevertheless, we reiterate our proposal to the Beirut authorities. We proposed, that at the first stage, the Lebanese Army will deploy up to the northern border of the security zone, and for the next six months it must prove its ability to maintain total quiet, and total disarming of Hizballah in south Lebanon. If that is proven and if total quiet reigns along the northern border of the security zone, we will open peace negotiations with Lebanon, which I hope will last three months. We will be prepared to withdraw up to the international border between Israel and Lebanon on three conditions: full peace and normalization; adequate security arrangements; and of course, our commitment to the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and the inhabitants of south Lebanon. In other words, the incorporation of the SLA into the Lebanese Army and a guarantee that the inhabitants of south Lebanon will not be harmed.

A solution is possible in the negotiations with Jordan, but to my great regret, I get the impression that it will not happen prior to an agreement with Syria, the big brother, who is keeping a watchful eye. Members of the Knesset, I want to tell the truth: For 27 years we have been dominating another people against its will. For 27 years, Palestinians in the territories, who currently number 1.7 million,

get up in the morning cultivating fierce hatred against us, as Israelis and Jews. Each morning they get up to a hard life, for which we are also, but not solely, responsible. We cannot deny, the ongoing control over a foreign people who do not want us, exacts a painful price, the price of an ongoing confrontation between us and them.

For six and a half years we have been witnessing the Palestinian's popular uprising, the intifadah, against our rule. They try to harm us through violence and terror, to cause us fatalities, to break our spirit. I would like to present you with some data presented to me by the IDF. Since the start of the uprising, 217 Israelis have been murdered, of whom 68 belonged to the security forces and 151 were civilians. That is a painful price. I recall the brigade I had the honor of commanding in the battle for besieged Jerusalem and the road to Jerusalem during the War of Independence. Within six months, this brigade, which was one of the 10 brigades which became the IDF, lost the same number of people. One of our distinguished IDF commanders, Knesset Member Refa'el Eytan, I am certain, remembers that. Those were the losses from one brigade, one of 10 brigades in a population of slightly more than 600,000. Nobody's spirit was broken then, nobody rejoiced over the bloodshed.

The number of our wounded is 7,872, of whom 5,062 belong to the security forces, and 2,810 are civilians. Among the Palestinians, 1,045 were killed by our forces—the IDF and the security forces—69 by Israeli civilians, 922 by other Palestinians, 99 for unknown reasons, 21 while handling explosives. In total, there have been 2,156 Palestinians killed. Wounded Palestinians, according to IDF data, number 18,967, while I estimate that at least 25,000 were wounded. There have been between 120,000 and 140,000 detentions and jail sentences. Those are the statistics of the confrontation during the past six and a half years.

What were the alternatives facing us after 27 years of domination—I do not want to use a different term—over an entity different from us religiously, politically, and nationally. The first alternative was to continue the existing situation, to make proposals for which there were no other partners, and without a partner there is no arrangement. To try to perpetrate the domination of another people; to continue the path of violence and terrorism ad infinitum; and to freeze the political process, to bring about a political stalemate.

All the governments of Israel, definitely all those since the Yom Kippur War, fully understood the dangers inherent in a political stalemate. That is why all the governments searched for the second alternative, which is to try to find a political solution, at first through separation of forces agreements. That was also the approach of the government of the late Menahem Begin in the peace treaty with Egypt. That was the path taken by Yitzhaq Shamir's government in agreeing to the Madrid peace conference. We have also taken that path since the Oslo deliberations and the signing ceremony in Washington.

Peace now appears to be closer than ever before. There is a big opportunity to end the wars, the 100 years of terrorism and bloodshed, the 100 years of enmity. When we began the journey for peace we knew it would be impossible to wipe out 100 years of hatred with one signature. We knew it would be impossible to change concepts and what is learned from birth, we knew that the peace would have enemies, we knew there would be people and organizations whose entire reason for existence is enmity between the peoples and that they will continue to fan it as much as they can. On the Palestinian side, the opposition to peace is led by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, the Rejectionist Front organizations. The emissaries of those organizations carried out most of the recent murders and terrorist attacks, some on suicide missions. For two or three years we have been facing a phenomenon of extremist Islamic terrorism, which recalls the Hizballah, which surfaced in Lebanon and perpetrated attacks, including suicide missions. We have been seeing it for the first time in the past two or three years among the Palestinian terrorist organizations. There is no end to the targets Hamas and the other terrorist organizations have among us. Each Israeli in the territories and inside sovereign Israel, including united Jerusalem, each bus, each home, is a target for their murderous plans. Since there is no separation between the two populations, the current situation creates endless possibilities for Hamas and the other organizations. In Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, 40,000 vehicles, tens of thousands of civilians and soldiers travel daily, according to our estimates. IDF soldiers have the task of daily safeguarding hundreds of Israeli vehicles, mainly buses, along 1,200 km of roads. Hundreds of thousands of Jews and Arabs, and thousands of vehicles mix daily, one population lives among the other. There are also many possibilities to cross from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—less from the Gaza Strip, more from Judaea and Samaria—into Israel. Many hidden and known paths lead from the territories into Israel. It is impossible to hermetically close the territories to infiltration by individuals. We are making all efforts to bring security to the citizens of Israel, both Jews and Arabs, within Israel and in the territories of Judaea and Samaria, everywhere. I am divulging to the Knesset today that a large part of the IDF's standing army is currently on security and defense missions for Israelis everywhere. There is no restriction on the activities of the IDF except that they should act within the law. In this situation, the organizations which continue terrorism have limitless targets, and perpetrate murderous missions, with openly declared aims—first to murder Israelis, and politically to do away with the peace talks, not to permit them to continue.

At first, the murderers of Hamas and the other organizations operated mainly against Israeli citizens and the security forces in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The political aims of those murderers were for Israeli settlers in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip harmed by terrorism to demonstrate and act against the Israeli Government thereby suspending the peace efforts. They apparently concluded their efforts were insufficient. We continued with the peace negotiations, so Hamas and the other organizations which oppose peace have now put most of their efforts into attacks against the Israeli population inside sovereign Israel, including united Jerusalem. Since 1

January, 1994, 23 Israelis—both Jews and Arabs—have been murdered. Twenty were killed inside sovereign Israel, including united Jerusalem, and three were killed in the territories of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Members of the Knesset, it is no secret how sensitive we are to fatalities, and the murderers of the terrorist organizations and the Rejectionist Front are trying to break us through attacks with knives, explosives, firing during ambushes, and car bombs. They do not have a chance. We experienced knifings during the 1930's bloodshed, we experienced car bombs in the War of Independence, we experienced bloody attacks on buses in Ma'ale 'Aqrabbim, Avivim, and the coastal road, where the most murderous terrorist attack in the history of terrorism, took place in 1978 when 35 Israelis were killed. Did any of us call the Begin government a blood-tainted government for that? No way. We experienced the Ma'alot massacre, the Lod airport massacre, the attack on Tel Aviv's Savoy hotel, Kefar Yuval, Qiryat Shemona, Misgav 'Am, Naharriya.

The people of Israel are not frightened off, they do not crack. It hurts, but we get back on our feet and go on. Even additional terrorist attacks will not stop the peace train. [Responding to catcalls from the right-wing opposition] Look who sows fear among the people, does not give them strength, does not explain the truth: how we faced much tougher situations. I regret to say that level of personal danger to each of us has increased in the wake of the despicable massacre perpetrated by the Jewish murderer from Hebron. Although the Arab terrorist organizations had a thousand reasons and excuses for harming us, that man came and added to them.

Members of the Knesset, we found one of the foci of Hamas activity is in Jordan and not Egypt or Tunisia, and even not Syria or Lebanon. We are convinced that the Jordanian security authorities are aware of that and nevertheless permitted information and operational activity from Amman. We therefore found it necessary to warn the Jordanian authorities against continued Hamas activity from its territory. Israel expects the king and his officials to act against the Hamas murderers, who will also ultimately attempt to undermine and topple his regime and control.

We also took a series of measures, including the tightening of the closure. We are aware of the hardship incurred by the inhabitants of the territories as a result of the closure, as well as to Israel's agriculture and building, but we have no choice. If we want to save lives we have to take tough measures and if the situation calls for it, we will even take even tougher measures. The IDF, Shin Bet, Israel Police, and the Border Police are conducting a war to the bitter end against all those who continue violence and terrorism. There are no restrictions on the activity of the security forces against terrorism and violence, except of course, that they operate within the framework of the law.

Members of the Knesset, the Hizballah terrorist organization is also partner to the effort to strangle the chance for peace. The Lebanese war did not rid us of terrorism in Lebanon. Hizballah leads the attacks against the IDF and SLA in the security zone, and from time to time, even against targets in Israel. IDF and SLA soldiers assure normal life for the settlements and residents of the North.

Members of the Knesset, I wish to send from this podium a greeting from the bottom of my heart to the IDF commanders and soldiers, the commanders and officers of the Israel Police and the Border Police, and a special greeting to the Shin Bet, which takes a large brunt of the tough war against the murderous enemies of Israel and peace.

Members of the Knesset, that is the current picture. The path to peace is paved with our good intentions and the terrorist attacks of the enemies of peace. There might be difficult conditions and we might not succeed in totally preventing terrorist attacks, but peace will win.

Netanyahu Addresses Knesset

TA1804162794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew 1344 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Address by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu at the opening of the Knesset summer session in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Mr. Chairman, Honorable Knesset, I would like to begin by wishing a full and speedy recovery to those wounded in yet another terrorist attack which took place today in Jerusalem. One attack follows another and terrorism has become a daily occurrence. Seeing as we are now opening the Knesset summer session, I would like to remind you, Mr. Prime Minister, of what you said at the beginning of the last winter session. Seven months ago, eight days after signing the Oslo agreement with 'Arafat, you stood upon the podium and declared that a new era had begun. I am quoting the very words you used to describe it: a new era. I continue to quote: Today, we are heading toward greater opportunities and better times, toward days which will be free of worry and nights which will be free of anxiety. When the peace which we so yearn for arrives, our lives will change completely and we will no longer have to live by the sword. What has happened since then? What has happened is that there has never been such a deterioration of personal security in every city, town, village, and settlement in this country. You, Mr. Prime Minister. You, and not me, mentioned statistics before. I heard your statistics. You said that 161 Israeli civilians were murdered during the six and a half years of the intifadah. Sorry, I was mistaken, the correct number is 151. Since the signing of the Oslo agreement, a period of a little more than six months, almost 40 Israeli civilians were murdered. According to my calculation, Mr. Prime Minister, this means that since the signing of the Oslo agreement—which you signed in order to bring about an end to terrorism—the rate of murders and the rate of terrorism has increased fourfold. So do not talk to us about days without anxiety. What you have brought us with your government's stupid policy is days filled with worry and nights consumed by anxiety. The good days you promised us have turned into days of bloodshed and terror under the shadow of terrorist attacks. Mr. Prime Minister, the government has failed in the most important task of every Israeli government, which is to protect the life of each civilian; and this failure is a

direct result of your policy. You said that you did not change the rules of engagement for IDF soldiers. Okay, I will not argue with you on that point although that too is debatable. However, you did the following things with regard to the other party. You, not me, released thousands of terrorists into the streets. You returned hundreds of deportees. We told you not to permit them to return. They participated in accelerated courses in assembling car bombs in Lebanon, yet you permitted them to return. You pardoned hundreds of fugitives and let all the leaders of the intifadah return. So what happens when you flood the streets with terrorists? Is there really reason to be surprised by the tremendous upsurge in terrorism, as indicated by the data you yourself provided? More terrorists lead to more terrorism. Did you learn anything from this? No, because you are going to continue. We have just been told that you are about to release not 4,000, but another 6,000 prisoners. You talk about a historic process. Mr. Prime Minister, you are about to enter history as the prime minister who established a 9,000 member Palestinian terrorist army whom you are about to arm with helicopters, armored vehicles, and machine guns. You call this a security policy? It is a policy that undermines security, it is a policy of insanity, of disconnection from reality. I call on you to stop this policy and bring it to a halt before there is more bloodshed.

However, since we are at the opening of a Knesset session and I have reminded you of statements you made in the past, let me recall other remarks you made at the same session on 21 September 1993, eight days after the signing of the agreement in Washington. You said that you have firmly anchored this agreement on three basic tenets. Let me quote the very words you used from this podium to describe these three principles. One, the PLO has committed to condemn and stop all acts of terrorism and violence in Israel, the territories, and everywhere else. Two, the PLO has promised to enforce the cessation of terrorism and violence on all of its members and prosecute anyone who breaks these commitments. Three, the PLO has promised to annul all clauses in the Palestinian Covenant denying Israel's right to exist and to bring about the official abrogation of these clauses. Mr. Prime Minister, what is left from all these commitments? You can make as many dismissive gestures as you want. Let us see what happened. You said that the PLO would stop terrorism. Okay, so we checked the minutes again and noted down that on the same occasion on this podium, eight days after the signing of the agreement, you said—and I quote: I would like to report that since the signing of the Oslo agreement, the PLO has not carried out any attacks. Well, Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to tell you that nearly eight months have now passed since the signing of the Oslo agreement and they have definitely perpetrated attacks. Let us see what the PLO has done. First of all, the PLO—and right now I am not talking about people directly under 'Arafat's command, I am talking about those who are not under his direct command—these factions carried out nine terrorist attacks. They killed five Israelis and wounded eight other people. Okay, they are not directly under 'Arafat's command. So let us see what the Fatah did. This is much worse, Mr. Prime Minister. When one makes use of statistics it is advisable to examine the figures first. For example, the Fatah, 'Arafat's own organization, carried out 37 attacks in which six people were killed and 14 others were wounded. I would like to read out the names of Yuval Golan, David Dedi, Hayim Weizman, Yitzhaq Rutenberg, Maurice Eisenstadt—who murdered them Mr. Prime Minister? Was it the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]? No, it was Fatah.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the prime minister who murdered them? Was it the enemies of peace? No, it was the supporters of peace, the Fatah people, the good guys. You understand: There are bad guys, who are the Hamas, and good guys who are the PLO. There are also even better guys among the good guys—that is Fatah, the cream of the crop.

Mr. Prime Minister, the first promise you made to the people of Israel that the PLO would halt terrorism was not kept. Now, with regard to the second promise that 'Arafat would take steps to punish any of his people who continued to carry out attacks, thus violating the new policy of putting a stop to terrorism—that was not kept either. No action whatsoever was taken against any of these murderers. 'Arafat did not say anything. He did not bring them before a court, he did not expel them from the organization, he has not even condemned the attacks. One can occasionally drag out a condemnation from him much like a dentist extracting a tooth from a reluctant patient. That is really interesting. Obviously, the second condition that the PLO would take steps against terrorists was not kept. Now for your third promise: that 'Arafat would annul the Palestinian Covenant calling for Israel's destruction. He has not canceled the covenant nor does he intend to abrogate it in future. Mr. Prime Minister, I heard a senior defense establishment official, whom you sent to one of the Knesset committees, say that Israel had solid intelligence data that they had no intention of ever conceding anything. What are you proposing? Let us examine that. Every single one of your assumptions, without exception, has crumbled in the face of reality.

I understand that this bothers you, Mr. Peres. You wrote a book about the new Middle East but what can you do if the old Middle East comes back to slap you in the face? I know that reality is hard to face. Because when you examine your assumptions— the PLO did not keep its promise to stop terrorism; the Palestinian Covenant was not canceled; and no punitive steps were ever taken against PLO terrorists—they all crumble in the face of reality. All I am asking for is that the prime minister, who, as we have already seen, can take the stage at any given moment, come up to the podium and simply admit that he was wrong. Let him say: I was wrong and made certain assumptions that did not come to pass. It can happen. People can make mistakes.

Mr. Prime Minister, I heard that you held a telephone conversation with 'Arafat two or three days ago. Let me ask you exactly what you have to talk to that man about? Do you demand that he revoke the Palestinian Covenant and stop Fatah terrorism? Do you demand that he enforce these steps? Do you ask for this? It is very hard to hear the truth

but the people already know the truth and no amount of shouting can hide or obfuscate it. Mr. Prime Minister, I was also told that during yesterday's cabinet session, you flexed a little, puny muscle vis a vis the PLO. You said something, you gently chided them that people were saying that the Fatah in Gaza is not behaving nicely, that it has some sort of cooperation going. Look, I do not want to offend the prime minister or the members of the cabinet but I do not think that 'Arafat is overly concerned and I will tell you why. It is because he sees and knows that every one of the basic assumptions that you counted on, every one of the promises he gave you are not being kept and you are not demanding that he keep them. For him, the entire business is pure bunk. To him, you personally as well as the entire Israeli Government is nothing but a paper tiger. It has no value. It is incapable of demanding or insisting on anything. It can only make threats which are meaningless. You do not know how to negotiate. Several days ago, I asked a group of Israeli businessmen, who are not affiliated with the Likud—actually they are even closer to the Labor party—whether they would entrust negotiations over their private businesses and assets to such a government. None of them said yes. Now, Mr. Prime Minister, you have discovered something new. Mr. Prime Minister, today I heard of your new discovery. You have discovered that the PLO is cooperating with Hamas; or rather you said that if it cooperates with Hamas then we will have to consider taking steps. Have you suddenly discovered this today? Did you not know this already? You have a delegation where Fatah representatives are constantly and incessantly issuing one ultimatum. They are demanding that we release the Hamas murderers. A Hamas official appears at the ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the Fatah's establishment. Now they meet and say that when the Palestinian police, or rather army, is established it will not act to prevent attacks against Israeli citizens. This is Hamas and Fatah. I hear what they say and then I hear your reaction. Who do you threaten? King Husayn. Okay, so you threatened Husayn. But I ask you Mr. Prime Minister, why do you not demand the same demands of yourself that you demand from Husayn. Where is this cooperation between these two terrorist organizations, Hamas and Fatah, taking place? In Amman, Syria, Baghdad, or Tunisia? No, it is taking place here in the territories under your control and responsibility. It is taking place here in the Gaza Strip, in Judaea and Samaria, and you are doing nothing. You are not even condemning it or demanding anything. What you do is threaten King Husayn. This is a government which makes threats that nobody takes seriously. Everything is collapsing and disintegrating. What do you do? What does the prime minister do after all his basic assumptions collapse? The third basic assumption was that the PLO would defend us against Hamas. The prime minister told us several minutes ago and I quote: We will not stop the peace train. What peace are you talking about? Do you really believe this? This is self-delusion, it is not peace. The government is deluding itself and deluding the public. It is a process which will lead to an increase in terrorism. It is a process of retreat. It is a process of retreat which will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state along the 1967 borders.

Mr. Prime Minister, you may have a technical majority in the Knesset, however, you tour the country occasionally and you already know that you do not enjoy the support of a majority of the Israeli public. You do not have a majority and that is putting it diplomatically [Netanyahu interrupted by prolonged heckling].

Mr. Chairman, you have to understand that this government believes that its job is to prevent the opposition from voicing its opinions. If the government can use its influence in the media then great, but if not it can always scream to high heaven. But I can hear what Hamas and Fatah said through all the government's yelling. They said that not only will they cooperate in murdering Jews—they are not the murderers of peace, they are the murderers of Jews—but they also said something else which is more important. They reiterated what was once declared by Rafiq al-Natshah, a leading PLO official, who said that they shared a joint long-term goal: the liberation of all of Palestine. Therefore, from the point of view of both Hamas and the PLO, the goal of this process, which you insist on calling a peace process, is to establish a Palestinian state which serves as an instrument for our destruction. The distinction made by the government between those Israelis who oppose and Israelis who support peace is not only absurd but also patently false. There are no opponents of peace among the Israeli people but there are many people who oppose a false peace which is only designed to bring about the establishment of a Palestinian state, to hand over the Golan Heights to the Syrian tyrant, and following these concessions to lead to a war which will be far worse than any we have experienced until today. If one were to ask what is the most fundamental and deepest difference between our approaches it is this: The main difference between the left-wing Labor government and the Likud is that the left-wing believes that peace will be achieved by dwarfing Israel's stature and by its capitulation to the dictates of tyrannical regimes and terrorists; whereas we believe that peace can only be achieved by Israel growing stronger within its present defensive borders. We believe that this strengthening must be effected by expanding settlement activity, increasing aliyah, and bolstering, not weakening, the IDF's ability to meet the challenges we may yet be forced to face.

Rabin's Political Statement Approved

TA1804181894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] The Knesset political debate concluded with approval of the prime minister's statement. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the statement was approved by 36 to 28. Those who voted for it were the Labor, Meretz, and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] factions.

Rabin To Demand Curb on Hizballah in Security Zone

TA1904101194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Apr 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Israel will demand that the understandings achieved with Syria in July 1993 as a result of Operation Accountability be expanded in a bid to curb Hizballah activity in the security zone and minimize friction between Hizballah and other terrorist organizations on one hand and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] on the other. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will ask Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who will visit Israel next week, to relay this message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Among other things, Israel will demand that the ban on Hizballah katyusha and mortar attacks be expanded to include the security zone as well. The Operation Accountability understandings refer only to Israeli territory.

In contacts with U.S. officials over the past few days, senior Israeli officials made it clear that as a result of the war of attrition with Hizballah, the SLA is under a strain so great that it is in danger of disintegrating—a thing which Israel cannot tolerate. [passage omitted]

Reacting to Israeli warnings, senior Lebanese and Syrian officials told the U.S. ambassadors in both countries' capitals that Hizballah is maintaining the Operation Accountability understandings by limiting its attacks to IDF and SLA military targets, while Israel and the SLA are breaching the understandings by attacking civilians.

Israel briefed the United States in detail about last weekend's events in south Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Rabin: Papers on Golan Not Plans But Data Collection

TA1904111994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Today's guest at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee was Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports on today's proceedings:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] The Golan Heights was the main issue discussed at today's session. Opposition members demanded that the prime minister disclose the working papers prepared by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Foreign Ministry, and what they defined as another government-affiliated body. Yitzhaq Rabin said: No working papers, just data collection.

[Rabin] Various working papers that were drafted over the years have now been put together. These papers do not amount to plans but rather are meant to provide the political echelon with data in order to reach decisions. This is how all these papers should be regarded. Neither the Army nor any other government body deals with political issues. Each body is in charge of a specific field, but when it comes to issues that are first and foremost of a security nature, they follow the guidance of the political echelon. They only prepare data, nothing else.

[Hecht] Binyamin Netanyahu disclosed information according to which the 6,000 Palestinian policemen who will arrive in Gaza in the next few days will be permitted to bring their family members. Netanyahu claims this amounts to exercising the right of return. [passage omitted]

[Rabin] I agreed that those who will come from abroad on specific dates may bring their immediate relatives with them. More than 750,000 Palestinians live in Gaza; I do not think another 20,000-30,000 will make any difference. I have no problem with their coming to Gaza.

[Hecht] Referring to the cooperation between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Rabin said he cannot prevent Palestinians from talking to each other, but if this talk leads to attacks, this will constitute a red line for us. [end recording]

Political Significance Seen in Raids on Hizballah

TA1904073894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Apr 94 p A4

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpts] Joint Lebanese and Syrian Army units raided Hizballah arms caches in the Ba'labakk area two days ago and confiscated weapons, equipment, and drugs. Israeli security sources believe that such activity, if it continues, could have political significance. [passage omitted]

The joint raid was directed against arms caches in a Hizballah stronghold in the Ba'labakk area. Large amounts of weapons, explosives, and drugs were seized. Over the past few weeks, the Lebanese Army raided Christian strongholds several times and detained several persons. Israeli sources believe that the Lebanese Army is trying to demonstrate its control in Lebanon and show it is also operating in the northern part of the country. [passage omitted]

Lubrani: Syrian Moves 'Mere Cosmetics'

TA1904074194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Hayim Zissowitz; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [Zissowitz] Mr. Lubrani, in his speech in the Knesset yesterday, the prime minister said Syria is still not evincing enough openness and flexibility to permit a breakthrough in the talks on the substance of peace. This also relates to Hizballah activity, which Syria is allowing to continue. What is Syria's policy in Lebanon?

[Lubrani] Syria undoubtedly regards Hizballah activity in Lebanon as leverage for gaining advantages on its track.

[Zissowitz] A report in HA'ARETZ this morning speaks about a joint Syrian-Lebanese military operation against Hizballah arms caches in Ba'labakk.

[Lubrani] I can only say that from what we know, this operation can be considered mere cosmetics. They are trying to prove that they are doing something, but I know nothing about such a thing in practice.

[Zissowitz] Are there any signs that Syria is trying to curb Hizballah attacks against Israel?

[Lubrani] Occasionally, as a result of U.S. pressure and in order to appease the United States, Syria attempts to curb Hizballah, even if only for appearances sake. There have been two such cases. During the last elections, there was a period of one month without any serious Hizballah attacks. Recently, in anticipation of the al-Asad-Clinton summit, complete calm was restored. Syria can stop Hizballah attacks if it wants to.

[Zissowitz] What about the SLA's [South Lebanese Army] operations? This organization suffered many casualties in battles against Hizballah last weekend. Civilians were also killed. Is the SLA's morale flagging?

[Lubrani] The SLA is undoubtedly facing a process of attrition. Both Hizballah and the rejectionist organizations are trying to undermine the SLA and the security zone. The SLA is having a hard time dealing with this situation, but it is continuing to function and is manning its posts. The SLA is our spearhead in maintaining calm along our northern border.

[Zissowitz] Is there any truth to the reports that the SLA is bitter over the fact that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is limiting its ability to react to the terrorists' provocations?

[Lubrani] There is some truth to these reports. It is only natural, however, that they would prefer to react much more firmly to attacks on them. On the other hand, they know that our actions are aimed at trying to preserve the understandings we reached with the Syrians via the Americans. Most of the time, they refrain from reacting, even when they are provoked to retaliate. Sometimes such outbursts do occur, such as the attack on Sidon last Friday.

[Zissowitz] There were reports of a massacre perpetrated by the SLA in the village of 'Aramta.

[Lubrani] There was no such massacre. It was invented by Lebanese and Syrian information circles, who turned Hizballah attacks in 'Aramta—which hit the civilian population primarily—into an SLA attack against the population of this village. This is an outright lie.

[Zissowitz] Are you completely satisfied with continuing the cooperation and coordination between the IDF and SLA?

[Lubrani] I have no doubt that the coordination and cooperation will continue. There are easy periods and more difficult periods. We have already been through such periods. We must realize, however, that we are in the midst of a war of attrition aimed not only at the SLA but at the IDF as well. The SLA is bearing a very heavy load, and we must realize this fact and deal with it accordingly. [passage omitted]

Peres on Importance of International Observers

LD1704204494 Rome RAI Uno Television Network in Italian 1800 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Let us turn to the Middle East. After having ordered the closure of the occupied territories for 10 days following the latest round of massacres, the government in Jerusalem has decided to allow some 20,000 Palestinians involved in social and humanitarian work to be allowed back in. Prime Minister Rabin has also announced a plan for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Golan Heights. Our correspondent Giovanni Bocco interviewed Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres:

[Begin recording] [Bocco, in English, translating his own question into Italian] The Cairo peace negotiations have restarted: When do you think an agreement over Gaza and Jericho will be reached?

[Peres, in English, with correspondent providing Italian translation] It appears to me that both ourselves and the PLO are respecting the agreements. I believe that the most difficult part of the negotiations has been overcome. The majority of the workload is behind us. If all goes well, then in two or three weeks time we will leave the Gaza Strip.

[Bocco] The international observers are arriving in Hebron. There are 35 Italians among these observers: What do you think about this?

[Peres] I believe that this is an important contribution to the peace process. The international presence is truly welcome, at least on our part, because it is important in bringing normal living conditions to Hebron and for preventing acts of violence. This welcome extends to the Italian contingent.

[Bocco] What do you think of the arrival of the Palestinian police force?

[Peres] I think that the Palestinians can and must provide security measures. They must police themselves. We cannot be the policemen of the Palestinians who have every right to have their own security force. We are happy that the police force is on its way. You cannot imagine how truthful my words are. [end recording]

Peled: No Palestinian Police Activity in Jerusalem

TA1904084794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Outgoing Police Commissioner Rafi Peled says there is no Palestinian police activity in Jerusalem. Peled was reacting to East Jerusalem Arabic press reports submitted to the Knesset Internal Affairs Committee by chairman Yehoshu'a Matza. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that according to Peled, the pictures that appeared in the newspapers were staged for photographers. The commissioner added, however, that the activity of Palestinian groups organized for dealing with ethical and drug-related matters in Jerusalem has been stopped.

Shamgar Commission Hears Testimony of 3 Arabs

TA1804170894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The Shamgar Commission of Inquiry today heard testimony from three Muslim worshipers, who were in the cave at the time of the massacre. The first witness to appear told the commission that he had heard shooting

after Barukh Goldstein had been beaten to the ground by Muslims in the cave. Steve Linde has details:

[Begin Linde recording] The commission's hearings were delayed by about an hour this morning, because the three Muslim witnesses due to appear, arrived late. Soldiers apparently held them up because they did not have the necessary permits to enter Jerusalem from Hebron.

In nearly three hours of testimony, Hajj Ahmad Muhammad complained about the behavior of Jewish worshipers in the Cave of the Patriarchs, and gave a detailed account of the February 25 massacre. Muhammad said after the morning prayers began, he heard two loud explosions, immediately followed by automatic fire, at which point all the Muslims in the cave fell to the floor. He saw the man with the case and earphones who had fired, and saw Muslim worshipers who were standing behind him attack him and throw him to the floor. [passage omitted]

Muhammad shocked the commission when he testified earlier that on the night before the massacre, on the Purim holiday, settlers had entered the cave drunk. He also said settlers had urinated in the cave, but when pressed by the judges, said he had only seen Muslim cleaners washing the floor afterwards. Judge Eli'ezer Goldberg noted that the witness had not actually seen what he was alleging, and he could not accept that Jews, who regarded the cave as holy, would defecate inside.

The commission of inquiry has held 30 sessions and heard testimony from some 100 witnesses. [end recording]

Two lawyers have petitioned the High Court of Justice to suspend Judge 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Zu'bi from the Shamgar Commission. They say al-Zu'bi was quoted in the media as saying settlers are the cruelest element in the territories.

U.S. 'Demand' To Deport Hamas Members Said Rejected

JN1904112794 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 18 Apr 94 pp 1, 11

[Report by Fahd al-Rimawi]

[Text] The Israeli war machine could not stand long in the face of some youths from Palestine whose belief in God and strong will made them decide to go for martyrdom.

The Zionist Army, armed to the teeth by the most sophisticated U.S. weapons and with its most active intelligence organs, was helpless. It could not prevent the Hamas Movement from transferring its impressive, qualitative operations to the heart of Israel in 'Afula, Hadera, Haifa, and God knows where else.

In only a few days or weeks, the voice of weapons overshadowed the hoarse talk about peace. Military and jihad action outshone the idle talk of the negotiations and the dozens of sessions and meetings that started more than two years ago in Madrid and are still revolving in a vicious circle without making any progress at all.

For all these reasons, the Israeli government, facing the threat of collapse under the strikes of Hamas, chose to shift its losing battle to the political level and to the Jordanian arena.

War is a continuation of politics by using other means. The opposite holds true. The Rabin government is trying at this time to survive and stay in power by reactivating foreign operations. These operations will be undertaken by the Mosad to liquidate Hamas leaders in Arab states. The Rabin government is also trying to export its crisis to the Jordanian arena, which is liable to explosion if the government was forced to clash with Hamas, which has strong support from Jordan's political-Islamic street in general, and the Muslim Brotherhood in particular.

Information available to Egyptian and PLO security agencies indicates clearly that the Mosad's plans to assassinate Hamas leaders abroad are now ready for implementation. This prompted several Arab and Islamic states, including Jordan, to instate heavy security measures to protect the Hamas leaders. Those countries have also asked the Hamas leaders to observe maximum caution.

Despite the fact that Jordan has rejected the Zionist logic of threats and responded to the rude threats of Rabin and Peres, Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has summoned Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, and Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, the official spokesman of the Movement, to his office several times. He asked them politely, but firmly, to take Jordan's circumstances into consideration and halt any political or media activity on its territory.

The U.S. ambassador in Amman had earlier asked the Jordanian government to deport Nazzal and Ghawshah, in response to an Israeli desire. The government, however, strongly rejected this demand, proceeding from its concern about Jordan's national sovereignty and the right to citizenship which Nazzal and Ghawshah enjoy, since they bear Jordanian nationality. This is in addition to the strong relationship between Jordan and Hamas, since the 'Arafat organization snubbed Jordan in favor of a new relationship with Israel.

AL-MAJD has learned from its own sources that the Interior Ministry has seized the passports of Nazzal, Ghawshah, and other Hamas members who have Jordanian nationality. However, no one at the Hamas office in Amman could confirm or deny the news, in reply to several queries by the AL-MAJD to the Hamas office, having failed to contact Ghawshah and Nazzal, who are apparently denying their presence to avoid answering reporters who are following with extreme interest the developments of the situation between the government and Hamas.

Government Promises To Restrain Hamas

TA1704111394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Jordan has promised the United States to restrain the activity of the Hamas organization in its territory. From Washington, Qol Yisra'el's correspondent Arye Golan quotes American sources as saying that since the weekend, the Hamas headquarters in the Jordanian capital is no longer operating. Israeli sources have said that if Jordan indeed stands by her pledge, Israel will take no further action. Last week Israeli leaders made it clear that they expected Jordan to halt Hamas' incitement and operational activity directed from its Amman offices.

Earlier, King Husayn himself made it clear that he considered an illegal organization in the Hashemite kingdom. [passage omitted]

Authorities Withdraw Hamas Officials' Passports

JN1904074294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Apr 94 pp 1, 10

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian authorities have withdrawn the passports of Hamas representative in Jordan Muhammad Nazzal and Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah, pending their decision on whether to comply with Jordanian regulations.

Official sources said the two men were summoned by the authorities and asked to "decide whether they are Palestinian—in which case they would be given a temporary two-year passport given to residents of the occupied territories, or they are Jordanian citizens who comply with Jordanian laws."

The sources said the two were also asked to refrain from making any statements claiming responsibility for attacks in the occupied territories.

A senior Jordanian official told the Jordan Times that the government had intended to curb the activities of Hamas in

Jordan without much publicity but was pressured to publicise these measures after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin issued a warning to Jordan charging that it was helping Hamas.

"We had already instructed the minister of interior to deal with the issue before Rabin had his press conference," the senior official said.

Hamas representatives were not available for comment Monday, but the movement issued a statement charging that Mr. Rabin was "creating fictitious conflicts to cover up for his political failure."

"The prime minister of the enemy Yitzhaq Rabin has issued a warning to Jordanin which he claimed that there is a leadership for Hamas on its territory and demanding that the Jordanian government take action against its activities," the statement responded.

"It is a failed attempt to use the confirmation by the Hamas representatives in Amman of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam's Brigades' claim of responsibility for the heroic acts in 'Afula and Hadera," the statement said.

"Rabin and his government know very well that the al-Qassam's Brigades conduct, plan and execute their activities from the occupied territories," the statement said, adding that "his failure to put an end to these attacks, and the revealing of his deception in the settlement process has caused him to use these attacks to issue a warning to Jordan."

Hamas said that Mr. Rabin needed to warn Jordan to achieve the following objectives:

—Direct attention away from the failure of his security measures and his oppressive measures in putting an end to the heroic attacks by the al-Qassam Brigades.

—Use the "American sword" to pressure Jordan towards signing a unilateral agreement with his government similar to the one signed in Oslo, and this warning falls in line with the policy of the U.S. administration which uses the naval blockade on al-'Aqabah as a way to pressure Jordan for the same purpose.

Despite the strong language against Israel and Mr. Rabin's government, the Hamas statement appeared to set a precedent in opening the door for bargaining with Israel.

Stressing that the attacks against Israeli civilians were in retaliation against the Hebron massacre of Palestinian worshippers, Hamas said that this was not a policy but the "exception."

"Hamas is ready to reconsider this exception on the condition that the enemy's prime minister, his government and his army halt completely all killings of unarmed civilians from our people," the statement said.

"We are not against peace," the statement added," but the peace offered by the government of the enemy is not peace but a consolidation of occupation and the injustice falling on our people."

"While we in Hamas know well that the Oslo agreement is nothing but humiliating surrender from the PLO... we think that the right beginning would be on the following foundations," the statement added.

Hamas demanded the "full Israeli withdrawal from our Palestinian land and dismantling and removal of all settlements, the holding of full and free elections in the West Bank and Gaza to select the representatives of our people and their leadership."

"The chosen leadership will be the one that represents the aspirations and hopes of our people and will decide on the ensuing steps," the statement concluded in what most analysts termed as an indication that Hamas was proposing itself as an alternative leadership to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, through the results of the elections and by deduction the side to conduct negotiations with Israel.

Decision To Close Hamas Offices in Amman Detailed

PM1804154894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Apr 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "King Husayn Announces Ban on Hamas Activities"]

[Excerpts] Amman—King Husayn of Jordan yesterday announced a ban on the activities of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Jordan and emphasized that his country did not recognize or deal with any Palestinian organization other than the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. King Husayn, speaking at a press conference he held after chairing a cabinet meeting which discussed the Israeli threats to the Kingdom and the charge that Jordan supports Hamas, said that any Palestinian organization other than the PLO would be treated as "unlawful." [passage omitted]

Responsible government sources have told AL-HAYAH that the government "had decided to close Hamas' offices in Amman" and ban its informational activities before Rabin made his threats.

The sources pointed out that the government considered that step "an internal matter in harmony with Jordan's policy which sees the PLO as the only party empowered to speak for the Palestinian people."

They stressed that the official authorities "have not and will not take any measures" against Hamas representative in Jordan Muhammad Nazzal or its official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah, "because the two are Jordanian citizens who abide by the country's current Constitution and laws." The same sources pointed out that "despite Jordan's affirmation that neither Nazzal nor Ghawshah had anything to do with the planning and execution of military operations in the occupied territory, we will allow no one to exploit their statements in the media to undermine Jordan." [passage omitted]

Hamas Office 'Operational'

TA1904133694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Apr 94 p A3

[Report by Tzvi Bar'el]

[Text] The Hamas office in Jordan continues functioning regularly, despite reports and announcements that it had been closed. Office workers come to work, answer phones, and operate the office as before. In a telephone conversation with the Hamas office, Muhammad Nazzal, head of the movement, said that the office exists and is operational, "but unfortunately, I cannot make comments to your newspaper because it is our policy not to speak with Israeli elements."

Jordanian sources in Amman have reported that the king's decision regarding Hamas has remained unchanged but, as far as they know, no practical steps to restrict the movement's activity have been taken so far. According to them, the heads of the movement were summoned for a discussion with the heads of the Jordanian intelligence who asked that Hamas media activity be reduced.

King Holds News Conference on Peace Process

JN1604184194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 94

[News conference by King Husayn with unidentified correspondents in Amman on 16 April—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] I am happy to have this opportunity to meet with all the brothers here. Proceed please.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, from the beginning of the peace process, you have repeatedly warned that any delay in the peace process would lead to frustration in the region and that extremism in the region will increase. Yesterday, Israel tried to hold Jordan responsible for some acts of violence in the West Bank. How do you explain the situation, in light of the conditions at which the peace process has arrived?

[Husayn] Concerning the peace process, I said at the beginning of this process that it would need time, that it required concentrated, sincere, serious, and objective efforts to reach its goals. In fact, even by my own standards, I noticed that there are pitfalls, procrastinations, and wastes of time. In fact, the beginnings were different from the present reality, now, in terms of the fact that, in my view, the vast majority of the people concerned in the entire region were optimistic that there would be serious progress toward tangible results. Regrettably, as time went by and with the pitfalls and confusion, these hopes or this zeal [hamas]—please forgive me for this expression, I mean, by the zeal, the zeal for peace—has dropped.

Many sides perhaps share the responsibility for all of this, be they the sponsors of the process or the parties concerned. I can frankly say that Israel bears the major part in terms of time that was lost. We in Jordan have reiterated our position in terms of our readiness and determination to work seriously to implement the provisions of the agenda, which was approved after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Washington, and to deal with all the important problems at the time in a way that would ensure that the end result would be the state of peace, the peace agreement and not the opposite.

We have time and again called for movement on all tracks pursuing a comprehensive settlement, under which future generations in the entire region enjoy completely different living conditions in terms of peace, stability, tranquility, and chances to bring about a state of affairs under which all parties can join hands and preserve peace for the benefit of future generations.

As for the issue of terror, our record testifies to a consistent condemnation of all acts of terrorism. We have suffered many casualties who fell victim to terror here and there around the world. We are against terrorism wherever and whenever it targets innocents. We condemn, denounce, and combat terror. The feelings of frustration have, recently, been running high in this region. However, one incident—the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre—stands out as undeniably the ultimate in savagery.

To be fair, we cannot single out one party as the target for accusations of extremism. Extremism is as much a reality there as it is on the Arab side.

In all cases, it may be that the goal is to kill the chances of a just, durable, and decent and viable peace. We are saddened on account of the victims and their relatives of an incident here or anywhere else in the world irrespective of their place in this or that state or in this or that position. As I have said, we believe that terrorism aims at assassinating peace and the chances to realize peace. This requires a degree of awareness for those who want to realize or contribute to realizing a just, permanent, and honorable peace.

I believe that Israel should also appraise its own contributions on the path of peace so far. We hope that everyone will reconsider their calculations and move seriously before it is too late, because the alternative, God forbid, will be a disaster for all, not only on the level of officials but on the level of everybody in the entire region.

Concerning us—and this issue concerns us, in fact, and perhaps we talked about it with the brother officials before the recent developments and media escalation—after 1974 and after a prolonged and frank discussion at the Rabat summit conference, we adopted the Palestinian and Arab approach. We all accepted the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. When we went to Madrid, we provided an umbrella for the Palestinian moves so that the Palestinian Arab people would exercise their right in representing the Palestinian dimension under their recognized and accredited leadership. When things developed concerning the Oslo agreement, we took a position supporting the Palestinian brothers in terms of what they had chosen and we overcame the factor of shock in order to be in harmony with ourselves. Moreover, we went and signed the joint agenda immediately after the Israeli-Palestinian agreement in Washington.

Consistent with our stand and at this critical phase, the only organization that has our recognition as representative of the Palestinian people here is the PLO, which maintains a mission and related institutions in Jordan. We are not dealing with any other Palestinian or non-Palestinian organizations. We will not accept any practices carried out in their name on this land.

If we are talking about Jordanian nationals, they will be regarded as such—Jordanians belonging to a large family hailing from various stocks. We will do our utmost on behalf of national unity in Jordan, until such time as a change becomes necessary.

We do not want this country to become a battleground, God forbid, between this or that faction of the people of Palestine or the people of Jordan. We will not, under any circumstances, permit any excesses that will put us in a position in which we would not be able to be consistent with our constant stand that the PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. They can debate their affairs among themselves, and whether they agree or disagree among themselves is their business. We support the PLO and do not recognize any other organization. This is how things stand.

It seems, though, that there have been, of late, different quarters that want this country to take on greater burdens than it has already unjustly borne. This is not strange. The whole issue is one of conflict and adherence to rights and principle. When it comes to rights, we will speak out, no matter what critics may think.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: The Israeli prime minister has issued a clear and direct threat to Jordan at a news conference. Israel is now in crisis due to the two operations. It is also disrupting the peace process. What is Jordan's response to the threat? Will Jordan take action against Hamas?

[Husayn] As I have told you, we do not recognize any organization other than the PLO—the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people—and its official, recognized organs in this country. We are not dealing with any other group. Nor will we recognize it or allow it to have any activities in this arena. That was our position before the Israeli prime minister, or any other Israeli officials, spoke at his news conference. This is because this is an affair of ours here in Jordan.

[Correspondent] You have mentioned pressures being applied on Jordan in relation to the issue of the Gulf of Aqaba. What is Jordan required to do? Why this pressure?

[Husayn] Help me find the answer. It seems that what is required of Jordan is something vague that I cannot put my finger on. It may be one of a number of objectives or a combination of objectives. The blockade of the Port of al-'Aqabah, in my opinion, was, from the beginning, meant to damage Jordan's credibility. Else, why single out Jordan, which is not the only neighboring state of Iraq? Jordan has complied with Security Council resolutions with regard to brotherly Iraq. Then, the aim is to continually discredit Jordan's image and damage the country's credibility around the world. This is something that we regard as unacceptably demeaning to this country.

The recent accusations that Jordan has relations with or harbors terror must be seen in the same context. I don't think that many people in the world can say they have been victims of terror and have resisted terror in the manner Jordan has. Our policy in this regard is clear and unambiguous.

I sometimes wonder whether democracy in this country is also being targeted as a source of apprehension for some. In this country, we believe in democracy and will continue to strive to make this country a model for others in the region and beyond. Are these policies aiming to get Jordan to give in to these pressures? Our heads will remain held high and will only bow to God.

I am not saying this only as one human being among you. I say this based on the absolute trust I have in my mind and heart in the large Jordanian family, its truthfulness, and its ability to be patient until the conditions improve.

[Correspondent] The U.S. secretary of state will begin a new tour of the region soon. What are your hopes? Will the U.S. official carry any new proposals to promote the peace process?

[Husayn] That is what we hope for. I do not know when he will visit the region, but I hope that this will be very soon. Concerning the al-'Aqabah issue, we have raised this and we are awaiting something that reassures us that it is going to be resolved. We raised this issue after we felt that we could no longer remain silent about the practices against this country and the blockade imposed on it for years.

[Correspondent] Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir [chief of the Royal court] left for Yemen today as part of His Majesty King Husayn's good efforts to resolve the political crisis in Yemen. Are you optimistic, sir, on the subject of the Yemeni crisis?

[Husayn] I always have to be optimistic, sir. In fact, we have been exerting our sincere efforts for the past seven months. We felt that we were responding to the Yemeni desire to help them overcome the problems and difficulties that threatened their great achievement of realizing Yemeni unity. Then there was the agreement and the accord document. We were happy to welcome all the representatives in Yemen here in Amman, where they signed the document, which deals with all problems and paves the way for building the strong, modern Yemen that we wish. Regrettably, only hours after the signing of the agreement, bloody clashes occurred which took us by surprise and pained us. We were asked to move again. A high-ranking military group left here. We met with our brothers in the Sultanate of Oman, as part of a joint mission that worked as one team. This mission stopped the fighting and was able to restore some of the formations to their original places and has been contributing to calming the situation so far. However, this mission cannot continue. Our Omani brothers have ended their mission, and we are considering ending ours, too. We will have a presence like any state represented in Yemen, through a military

attache's office. This is because if we consider the document, there are many problems that must be tackled by our brothers in Yemen. They must bear their full responsibilities until the Armed Forces are reorganized and reunited. Then, we will be able to make moves, if they wish, and acquiesce to their wishes. We are prepared to serve them in any field in which we can help in order to promote the unity and the aims enshrined in the document. But, they have to bear their responsibilities. All the sons of beloved Yemen should bear this responsibility.

Now, there are so many parties in the picture. We feel that our presence will not offer the service we offered in the past. This is the message a Jordanian delegation is bearing to the brothers in Yemen right now. We are awaiting the notes this delegation will bring us from there. We only hope that Yemen will remain united and that we will not be party to partitioning Yemen or fragmenting it, God forbid, in any way.

King Gives Speech at Restoration Ceremony

JN1804110894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 0931 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Speech by King Husayn in Amman—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Prayers and peace be upon His faithful Arab Hashemite Prophet and all his companions.

Dear brothers, Arabs and Muslims everywhere:

God's peace, compassion and blessings be upon all of you.

Praise be to Allah, the Almighty, who sustains the glory of Islam and who, verily, makes the future belong to those who take heed for themselves and follow the straight path. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, who has no compeers, and that Muhammad, peace be upon him, is the votary and messenger of Allah, who took him on a night journey from the al-Haram Mosque to the al-Aqsa Mosque from where he ascended to the Lotus tree in the Seventh Heaven.

Also, I praise God for all His kindness to me, especially since he blessed me with a special favor to be associated with the first qiblah [direction of Muslim prayer] and the third sacred mosque. This association goes back to the early days of the first great message and the day when God brought the light of Islam to Jerusalem. Ever since then, the holy city thrived in glory, piety and tolerance. It also goes back to the day when the body of the great revolutionary al-Husayn Bin-'Ali, was finally laid to rest in the sacred grounds of al-Aqsa. It was he who had set an example for historical leaders of how to choose between attaining glory of the transient moment and immortality in the life hereafter. It was the very same association that was consolidated when I witnessed 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn as he fell a martyr on the sacred grounds of al-Aqsa Mosque as he stood upright in dignity, like all Hashemites who pass away while still firmly adhering to time-honored principles [applause] and determined to attain their goals against all odds. Little wonder that they have been immortalized in the annals of history.

Islam was in point of fact the message of all God's prophets and messengers whose missions had been sealed by that of Muhammad, peace be upon him. Over and above that, my relationship with Jerusalem is similar to that of any Muslim who believes in God, His angels, holy books, messengers, and the Day of Judgment, and who strives, along with the patient tiny minority of the faithful, to defend his nation, inspired by what the holy koran says: Remember when you were few and powerless in the land, afraid of despoliation at the hands of men. But then God sheltered and helped you to strength, and provided for you good things that you may perhaps be grateful. [Koranic verse]

Dear brethren,

The accomplishment we celebrate today is one of my dearest achievements, namely, the third Hashemite-sponsored renovation of al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Holy Rock. It was by God's grace that I was able to fulfill my obligations seeking only the reward of the exalted Lord.

As I take special pride in, and feel happy about, this blessing conferred upon me and all Jordanians by the Lord, I must admit that this joyous occasion is soured by the current state of affairs of this nation and the suffering of its peoples, especially the people of Jerusalem and Palestine. At this moment, my memory takes me back to the morning of Thursday, the 28th of Rabi' al-'Awwal, 1384 Hegira, corresponding to 6 August, 1964, when we celebrated in the city of Jerusalem the completion of the first phase of the renovation of al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Holy Rock. May I recall the very same words I addressed to the nation 30 years ago. The appeal I made on that morning in the distant past was quite timely then as it is now, for it was intended to alert the entire nation to the dangers of fragmentation.

My exact words then were as follows:

As we celebrate today, we look beyond our immediate scope of vision towards the millions of Arab and Muslims in Asia and Africa who, at this moment, collectively set their eyes on Palestine. Let me emphasize that the actual renovation of the Mosque and the Dome of the Holy Rock assumes significance far beyond the physical repair work on their actual site to include, in addition to the salvation of the rock, the preservation of its mosque and the maintenance of its dome, the complete restoration of our full rights in our usurped land, the dear Arab land [of Palestine]. [applause] I also said that this country, my dear brethren, has for years been pursuing development efforts at the same time when we were also defending our homeland and nation. Palestine has always been the essence of Jordan's pan-Arab message, figured prominently in our national construction and defense efforts because Jordan lives for Palestine and for its sake stands ready to sacrifice itself.

This was our plea then which was inspired by the eternal and historic positions of al-Husayn Bin-'Ali on Palestine and its holy shrines, positions which settled deep in our hearts and came forth on our lips. They were later reinforced by Faysal Bin-al-Husayn's battle cry, "Let us embrace death, brethren Arabs." [applause] It was also impressively demonstrated by the sincerity of 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn in defending the holy places and his comprehension of the dynamics of our age. It was indeed his sense of duty which prompted him to accept the supervision of the renovation work at al- Haram al-Sharif under the patronage of al-Husayn Bin-'Ali, as clearly documented in the letter addressed to him in 1924 by the late Hajj Amin al-Husayni, the then head of the supreme Islamic council, may his soul rest in peace. It was 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn himself who personally ascended to the roof of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to direct efforts to fight a fire that threatened the structure of the church in 1949. Later, he offered the funds needed for complete repair of damage to the church. Our position toward all the sons of the nation today is no different. It is the same position demonstrated by our soldiers as they put up legendary resistance in defending the walls, alleys and streets of Jerusalem in the June 1967 war. They were the same brave servicemen who kept faith as they fought the al-Karamah Battle as a perpetuation of their struggle for Jerusalem. They were the ones who neither compromised Arab rights nor did they waver in their determination to defend those rights or face up to the oppression of the usurpers. The rights I have in mind are the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine, including the restoration of peace to al-Aqsa Mosque and the al-Ibrahimi Mosque so that no worshiper there would ever be terrorized by a murderer; so that Salah-al-Din's pulpit would never be set ablaze by a bigot; so that children would never be sprayed at point blank with gunfire by a usurper.

Brothers and Sisters of the noble nation: Thanks to our firm belief in Almighty God and by virtue of faith and determination of the righteous people, we have been able to maintain our resolve. Our martyrs' blood was the light guiding us to Jerusalem, the dear and precious city, the symbol of steadfastness and the gem of peace. To us, the Hashemites, Jerusalem has been an eternal trust of religious tolerance we cherish in accordance with Caliph 'Umar's Covenant, consecrated by Jordanian blood and a symbol of Arab and Muslim struggle. Thus, our association with Jerusalem stands above the fray of political ploys and earthly greed [applause] since it has been anchored in the faith, prophethood, history, and martyrdom. We will keep our pledge and we will continue to defend the nation's rights in it so that it will return as an Arab and Islamic city [applause] in accordance with the international legitimacy and so that sovereignty over its holy sites will only be for God. In the name of God, the Almighty, the nation will be entitled to religious jurisdiction in a manner that will be determined by consensus. In this fashion, a link between the past and the present will be maintained and [Caliph] 'Umar's Covenant will continue to be a beacon lighting the road of relationship with Jerusalem—the symbol, history, and holy shrines. What trust could be dearer and more precious than our holy places in it!

Hence, in the name of the martyrs of Al al-Bayt [the House of the Prophet] and all the nation's martyrs, headed by the martyrs of this dear Arab homeland, we appeal to the nation to rise in order to rescue Jerusalem [applause] and to be able to confront all forms of blockade, oppression, and estrangement. This nation is worthy of freedom, glory, and life. Our grandfathers chose to leave Hejaz earlier in this century in order to spearhead its revolution. They carried the banners of freedom, unity, and tolerance and shouldered the trust of the revolution together—Muslims and Christians, Arabs and non-Arabs—united by the banner of the Great Arab Revolt and the noble goals of defending human rights and dignity. [applause]

For the sake of securing the peoples' right to self-determination, al-Husayn Bin-'Ali said no to all forms of colonization and usurpation. 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, too, said no to all forms of division and loss. And today, we say no to any solution that does not restore Arab sovereignty to Arab Jerusalem [applause] so that the whole city would eventually become a token and symbol of peace for all the faithful children of Abraham, peace be upon him. In the same breath, we say no to any solution that does not secure the historical and legitimate rights of the people of Palestine on their sacred national soil [applause]. And we say no to any peace the next generations do not accept, safeguard, or defend because it does not represent right, justice, and human dignity. [applause]

Dear brothers, distinguished guests:

Today, we celebrate the completion of renovation work at the Dome of the Rock and our brethren in Jerusalem are observing the same occasion. We are one and the same family. This event is just another reminder of a long history of common heritage marked by patience, cherished memories, and satisfaction. I pray God to enable us to fulfill our obligation to the cause of Islam. To this end, we have started construction work in this country on the mausoleums of the Prophet's companions, may God be pleased with them, since they were the first Muslims to set foot on this land and elsewhere in the Muslim world. More so, because they were either from the House of the Prophet or his associates. This honor will include the other mujahidin who followed in their steps. These mausoleums should be designed and constructed as architectural masterpieces that display to the generations to come the splendor of their achievements as well as to serve as a source of inspiration to them. For this land was the gate to the Islamic conquest through Mu'tah and al-Yarmuk, and the passage to Muslim cavalier battalions to Hittin and 'Ayn Jalut.

In the name of upright Islam, we also initiated work to establish the 'Al al-Bayt [The House of the Prophet] University which will be the gift of all members of the House of the Prophet, peace be upon him, to the entire Islamic nation. The institution is conceived to be an Islamic forum that encompasses the glorious past history while it seeks to cope with the challenges of the present and the future. Our

ultimate goal is to meet the Lord's wish that this nation will remain the most favored among communities raised on this earth.

In the same vein, we have reached out to our brethren in the newly independent Islamic republics. A team of our experts is engaged now in providing assistance to those republics in a number of areas, including education, construction, and culture. We intended to help in the restoration of the Mausoleum of al-Qutham Ibn-al-'Abbass in Samarkand to its original magnificence, splendor, and beauty. We have also commissioned the restoration of the splendid pulpit of Salah-al-Din at its original site in the al-Aqsa Mosque. If anything, this is our response to the malicious bigots who set it ablaze [in 1968]. We have engaged ourselves in this exercise secure in our knowledge that history will ultimately do justice to this nation. It was Nur-al-Din Zinki, the renowned Muslim martyr, who ordered the artisans of Aleppo to perfect its manufacture, and it was Salah-al-Din himself who moved it to Jerusalem 20 years after it had been built. It is my fervent hope now to see it back in place one day and to attend a sermon there in which a preacher would congratulate the nation on restoring Jerusalem to the nation, free, dignified, and proud.

Dear brothers and sisters, the current plight of our nation is a very severe one and the prognosis is grim indeed. I can see no salvation except by ensuring genuine freedoms and making sacrifices, in addition to enlightenment and clear vision. Only then can we comprehend the evolution of history with a fresh outlook which would enable us to instill into the younger generation a sense of new hope to attain rejuvenation, revival, scientific know-how and strength. This would also help us in shaking ourselves loose from the sins of the current epoch of weakness, the colonial designs, the oil curse, and oppressive practices. Down this road, we would perhaps see an end to our senseless hostilities and to the meaningless loss of our resources and blood which are given away in the service of foreign interests. Then, the whole nation would emerge free of ethnic intolerance, religious extremism, or cultural introversion.

To Jerusalem, the omnipresent city in our minds and hearts, we send our greetings.

Without Jerusalem, our lives will always be lacking in harmony. For Jerusalem represents our collective memory and common faith. It stands for our epicenter of knowledge, vision, and religious tolerance as exemplified in the Covenant of 'Umar [Ibn-al-Khattab, the second caliph in early Islam]. It is the focal point of our cherished freedom and dignified peace.

We will continue to warn against and then resist all attempts at tampering with our Islamic holy shrines, at the first of the two Qiblahs [direction to which a Muslim addresses his prayers] and the third holiest mosque, in particular, and throughout the Islamic world. We shall oppose any change in the physical features of these shrines that might be effected under false pretexts or repair, expansion, or renovation, or under any other slogan. For such attempts might strip the nation of its historical legacy to safeguard and maintain them. These endeavors of ours will be mounted on behalf of and in coordination with the entire Islamic nation with a view to ensuring the preservation of its sacred common heritage.

Here, we must emphasize that the means to repair our holy places in Jerusalem are known. They are the committees in charge of this. I mean the Jordanian Awqaf Ministry and the Commission on the Renovation of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Holy Rock, which have been assuming their responsibilities for decades. Palestine is determined to restore its right to freedom. It enjoys an enlightened awareness that it will triumph, God willing. We beseech God to have mercy on the souls of its martyrs, from 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam to the worshipers at the Holy Ibrahimi Mosque, [applause] and to make us to always remember them and to be faithful to them.

O beloved ones who maintain their steadfastness on the land of Palestine and those in fraternal Iraq who are courageously, patiently facing the blockade. O those who are defending the unity of your land, people, and spirit in beloved Yemen. O Arabs and Muslims everywhere. Let me seize this moment to renew the pledge initially undertaken by our forefathers that they will bow their heads in submission to no one except to God, the Almighty. They committed themselves to combating injustice and oppression in a manner that behooves their lineage to Hamzah of 'Uhud, Ja'afar of Mu'ta, and al-Husayn of Karbala'.

Many a Hashemite martyr uttered in soliloquy: O Lord, I have control over none but myself, which I offer in duty to their cause. And many of them swore an oath to each other that they would fight till death rather than retreat, surrender or disgrace themselves. No wonder that their tombs are still recognized throughout the larger homeland and their names are held in high esteem by the nation. Their memories are associated with holy events and places that are subject to no authority other than that of the one united nation. Their souls seek no permission for prayer at this mosque or that. After all, they were the ones who in their deeds demonstrated to the world the real difference between freedom and bondage, between justice and oppression, between dignity and submission. In the face of a sever crisis, their reaction has always been: overwhelming stress demands overwhelming determination. That is because their consuming dream was to see one united nation living in justice and dignity; a nation that draws its strength from its glorious past, despite all obstacles on the road, severe limitations and dim prospects. And since our spirit of challenge will never wane, we shall remain loyal to their mission until the nation gains victory or we meet our Lord, the Creator, as martyrs, for martyrdom would make up for victory in the life hereafter if we failed to achieve it in our life.

If the response of the nation to the challenge on hand appeared sometimes to be weak or limited, or if destruction, fragmentation, poverty and hunger seemed to be spreading out of control, then we should not feel despondent. Rather, we should respond with resolve and determination to rise to the challenge in order to develop a modern Islamic discourse and an integrated model for civilized

communal life which revives hope that the whole nation could indeed be rebuilt from within in terms of its thinking, orientation, vision and way of life, bearing always in mind the need to safeguard freedoms, the purist of knowledge, tolerance, and justice.

Dear brothers and sisters,

From this platform in Amman, which stands for the Arab cause, freedom and steadfastness, I say: Peace be upon Jerusalem and greetings of peace from Jordanians to their kinsfolk there. These are the Jordanians who never failed to respond to the call of duty dictated by blood ties and their sense of morality. These are the Jordanians who never lost vision of al-Aqsa Mosque with all the sentiments of worship, martyrdom, and pride it evokes in their souls.

Peace be upon Jerusalem of al-Faruk [Caliph 'Umar], of Salah-al-Din, and of al-Husayn bin-'Ali.

Peace be upon its rock, and the First Qiblah, the site of the Prophet's night journey and his ascension therefrom to heavens.

Peace be upon the church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Peace goes from Jordan, who takes pride as its mantle, the nation as its beloved one, and freedom as its wish. [applause]

Peace from the Jordanians whose spirit cannot be broken during the time of apostasy, whose heads are not bound during the siege, and whose steps do not go astray in times of darkness.

We send greetings of peace to the jewel of all the cities of the nation. We pray for the rest of souls of all martyrs who fell on its soil, of all worshipers who said their prayers in its mosque and churches, of all scholars who went through its schools. We salute all its inhabitants who are enduring the oppression of the occupier while struggling for its freedom and glory.

My dear brothers and sisters,

In closing, let me salute all of you and welcome once again our guests who came from several places in the large homeland of our nation. I should also like to pay tribute to all those who contributed to the renovation effort, especially the supervisors, designers, builders and artisans. I pray to Allah, the Almighty, to guide us all along the right path to win His satisfaction.

May God bring upon you one and all peace, compassion, and blessings.

King Departs for UK; Medical Check Up Slated

JN1904103194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman today for the United Kingdom to have medical checks on his left ear. [passage omitted]

Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, adviser Yanal Hikmat, and the Jordanian ambassador to Britain left along with his majesty. His Royal Highness Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath before his majesty as regent during his majesty's absence abroad.

Crown Prince Cancels U.S. Visit Due to 'Tension'

JN1904120294 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 18 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Following the U.S.-Jordanian tension resulting from the al-'Aqabah Port blockade, Crown Prince Hasan has decided to cancel a visit to Washington scheduled 20 April. Jordan had expected that the United States would decide to lift the blockade against ships bound for al-'Aqabah Port and allow inspection of ships at the port instead of accosting them on the high seas.

Jordan has already conveyed its views to the United States and the world and the issue has become clear and does not have to be discussed by the prince in Washington during the visit, which was scheduled one month before the outbreak of the present crisis. Talks during the visit were supposed to focus on certain economic aspects and political issues which cannot be discussed now before the al-'Aqabah blockade crisis is over.

Al-Majali Says Separate Peace 'More Dangerous'

JN1704194294 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said Jordan seeks a comprehensive peace settlement and has rejected a separate one because it will not be a permanent solution, and might also be more dangerous than having no solution at all.

The prime minister met today with the Jordanian journalists and columnists of the country's party press, and other daily newspapers.

The prime minister agreed that there could be a possible link between recent Israeli accusations to Jordan of encouraging terrorism and the blockade on the Gulf of Aqaba.

Prime Minister al-Majali indicated that Jordan is making contacts with a number of world countries to explain losses to the national economy as a result of the blockade.

The prime minister said Jordan believes in the need for further coordination among Arab parties to the peace negotiations with Israel. He said the Arab negotiators can be in a stronger position as the Arabs demonstrated a unity of stands.

The prime minister said Jordan's relationship with the Palestinians is very special, and the country deals with the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Lebanese Parliament Speaker, Team Pay Visit

Birri Meets With al-Masri

JN1604184894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, began an official visit to Jordan at the head of a

Lebanese parliamentary delegation. His visit is aimed at discussing bilateral relations and the current Arab situation. Details are in the following report by our parliamentary affairs correspondent:

A session of Jordanian-Lebanese parliamentary talks was held at the Parliament today. The Jordanian side was led by Tahir al-Masri, speaker of the House of Representatives, and included members of the permanent office, heads of committees, and rapporteurs of the parliamentary blocs. The Lebanese side was led by Nabih Birri, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and included a number of deputies as well as representatives of leading Lebanese newspapers.

Tahir al-Masri said: We welcome Mr. Birri as a prominent national and pan-Arab figure who is playing a distinguished role in restoring Arab solidarity. Al-Masri said that we, in Jordan and Lebanon, are convinced that our democratic march and respect of citizens' rights constitute the basic cornerstone in the battle of restoring Arab rights.

He added that we, in Jordan, have Arab rather than Jordanian concerns. Jordan is unionist and Arabist. It has paid a dear price as a result of its pan-Arab stands and democratic march.

Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, thanked the king and people of Jordan for not acting unilaterally and for paying the tax of war.

He said that we should return to our Arab solidarity, adding that the Arab cordon states—Syria. Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine—must be supported so that none of them are singled out. [passage omitted]

Further on Birri-al-Masri Talks

JN1604204294 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Birri is now visiting Jordan. Shortly after arriving in Amman today, he met with the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Tahir al-Masri.

In remarks during the meeting, al-Masri said that the Arab nation is facing the most difficult conditions and must unify its ranks to confront the challenges and dangers. He said Jordan and Lebanon are living through similar conditions in terms of their being targeted by a joint enemy and being exposed to foreign pressures.

Mr. Birri paid tribute to his majesty the king's pan-Arab stands and said Jordan had withstood the pressures. He called for closer coordination among Arab partners to the peace talks with Israel.

The Lebanese Parliament speaker is accompanied on his visit to Jordan by a number of Lebanese deputies and officials.

Al-'Anani Meets Lebanese Team

JN1704085594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs, received in his office this morning the Lebanese media delegation accompanying Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies.

At the outset of the meeting, Dr. al-'Anani welcomed the delegation members and reviewed with them the distinguished Jordanian-Lebanese relations on various levels as well as the recent developments aimed at putting pressure on Jordan and weakening its position.

Al-'Anani stressed Jordan's constant principles of not concluding separate deals or violating the Arab consensus. He reasserted that Jordan will not seek any gains at the expense of any other Arab state. He also reviewed the economic pressures being put on Jordan, particularly the continued siege on the port of al-'Aqabah.

Al-'Anani emphasized that Jordan will not budge from its consistent and principled position, and that Jordan's participation in the peace talks is contingent upon finding a solution to the method of searches concerning the port of al-'Aqabah. He stressed Jordan's eagerness to coordinate with all parties concerned with the peace process in order to adopt a firm Arab position, so a just and comprehensive peace settlement would be achieved. Such a settlement would guarantee the rights of all, he added.

Prime Minister, Officials Meet Birri

JN1704144094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office at the Parliament today Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and the delegation accompanying him.

At the outset of the meeting, Dr. al-Majali asserted that this country's approach has always been Arab and Islamic. Jordan's eagerness to promote Arab causes is equal to its eagerness to promote its own interests, al-Majali added. He went on to say: We view Lebanon as a fraternal Arab state. We support its causes and issues, especially given the calamities and attacks to which southern Lebanon has been exposed. We hope that Lebanon will recover and remain a strong country, a strong foundation contributing to the Arab nation's strength.

Dr. al-Majali also addressed the issue of peace, and Jordan's position toward peace efforts, as explained by His Majesty King Husayn. He reasserted that the solution must be just and comprehensive on all fronts. He added that any solution must ensure the restoration of all Arab rights. He went on to say that Jordan has pursued contacts and coordination with all concerned Arab parties, including the PLO, which is the representative of the Palestinian people, to help form a unified Arab stand that will help to achieve peace on the basis of justice and equality, a peace that will be accepted by future generations.

Dr. al-Majali underscored the need to close Arab ranks and unify Arab positions, since this would promote the Arab nation's standing and enable it to cope with its own problems and issues. He added that Jordan views all Arab brothers as a part of this nation. Besides, Jordan has been directly and effectively involved in problems. The most

recent evidence of this is Jordan's accommodation of some 300,000 refugees in the aftermath of the Gulf war. He indicated that this, given Jordan's capabilities and resources, constitutes a heavy burden. Nonetheless, Jordan believes that their presence here is the outcome of difficult circumstances created by the Gulf war.

For his part, Nabih Birri underlined Jordan's honorable positions under His Majesty King Husayn toward all Arab and pan-Arab causes. He also underscored Jordan's support for Lebanon in the years of its ordeal and Jordan's help in coping with this ordeal. He added: Our prime concern in Lebanon is to achieve security and stability, which we are beginning to see. The Lebanese Government has drafted a plan to rebuild the infrastructure damaged during the internal strife. Moreover, there is a focus on rebuilding southern Lebanon, which has continued to come under constant Israeli attacks.

The meeting was attended by Tahir al-Masri, speaker of the House of Representatives; Dr. Khalid al-Zu'bi, minister of state for legal and parliamentary affairs; the Jordanian ambassador in Beirut; and the Lebanese ambassador in Amman.

Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi met with the speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and his delegation at the Parliament earlier in the day. House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri attended.

At the outset of the meeting, al-Lawzi noted that Lebanon has always provided a haven for the nation's thinkers. He noted the commonalities in the two countries, particularly in terms of their history and their efforts to establish true inter-Arab cooperation to promote inter-Arab integration in all spheres. He reaffirmed the importance of the role the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies can play to safeguard Lebanon and its unity to help it return to the forefront. He also called for honoring international legitimacy and implementing the UN resolutions pertaining to southern Lebanon, asserting Jordan's strong faith in true peace, peace that will restore rights to their rightful owners. He added that there is no alternative to a just and comprehensive peace that will end massacres and occupation. He noted that it is Israel which is sponsoring terrorism, and that it was Israel which occupied Arab lands and perpetrated killings, displacement, and settlement activities throughout the occupied Arab territories. He called for an end to these practices so that peace can be achieved in the region.

For his part, Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn, the Jordanian Government, and the Jordanian people. He underlined the strong Jordanian-Lebanese relations in all spheres.

Nabih Birri added: Jordan does not need to absolve itself of any alleged terrorism, particularly since everybody is well aware of His Majesty King Husayn's moderation, patience, shrewdness, wisdom, and intelligence. Everybody is well aware that Jordan has paid a high price for terrorism. He wondered: Is the person who acts in defense of his territories, homeland, and rights an extremist terrorist? By contrast, can the party that occupied another's territory by force, and displaces its population and owners be called a non-terrorist?

Birri continued: It is no coincidence that Israel is perpetrating terrorism in southern Lebanon and accusing Jordan of terror. He recalled the killing of innocent civilians at the Ibrahimi Mosque, wondering: What can this be called? Was it a premeditated act, planned a long time ago? What is the daily shelling of Lebanese cities and the displacement of their residents called?

Birri asserted that we are engaged in acts of self-defense, whereas the Israelis have fostered terrorism. He indicated that without a just and comprehensive peace in the region, the phenomenon they call terrorism will spread. He wondered: How can you blame me when you push me too far?

Birri urged the Arab nation to unify its ranks. He indicated that the current Arab state of affairs is the result of its weakness and disunity. He reiterated that the pressure put on Jordan and the threats made against its stability and security are designed to make it conclude a unilateral deal so that it may be dissociated from Lebanon and Syria. The same goes for Lebanon and the attempts to make it sign a unilateral deal with the Zionist entity. He reaffirmed the seriousness of concluding such unilateral deals, because this would undermine the inalienable legitimate rights of the parties concerned.

At the end of the meeting, which was attended by members of the Lebanese and Jordanian delegations, the two sides held a lengthy discussion on the current Arab state of affairs, issues of common interest between the two fraternal states, and mutual coordination. They said that the pressure applied to Jordan does not frighten us, particularly since similar pressure has been applied in the past.

The Jordanian and Lebanese sides reaffirmed the importance of national unity, indicating that it is the most effective means of resistance.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the issue of forming a Jordanian-Lebanese parliamentary committee that could be expanded in the future to include other nations. The purpose of this committee would be to examine the potential of current developments.

King Confers With Birri, Comments

JN1704171894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at Raghadan Palace today Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

His majesty held a closed meeting, attended by the crown prince, with Nabih Birri, followed by an expanded meeting attended by a number of officials from both sides.

At the outset of the meeting, his majesty welcomed Birri and his delegation and emphasized importance of such meetings on all legislative and political levels in Arab countries, and the need to intensify these meetings in the service of the causes of the Arab nation and to lead the nation toward its aspirations.

His majesty emphasized the importance of continuous contacts between political leaderships and the need to intensify efforts in a manner that realizes serious and constructive coordination between the Arab countries to the peace process, because this continuous coordination is a national and pan-Arab interest to which all should adhere.

For his part, Birri stressed the appreciation of the Lebanese people for His majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab and honorable positions and his eagerness to support the brotherly Lebanese people and the Lebanese leadership in defending the just Lebanese cause. He expressed admiration of the wise leadership of His Majesty King Husayn and his positions on various crucial pan-Arab issues.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister; His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Ahmad al-Lawzi, Senate president; Tahir al-Masri, speaker of the House of Representatives; advisers of his majesty the king; the Jordanian ambassador in Beirut; and Deputy 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the House of Representatives.

On the Lebanese side, the meeting was attended by Deputy Asmar Asmar, Deputy 'Ali Mita, Deputy Astafan al-Duayhi, Deputy 'Ala' al-Din, and the Lebanese ambassador in Amman.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] We know how much you love Lebanon and its people. What can say after this meeting with Speaker Birri and the parliamentary delegation?

[Husayn] This meeting is a blessed one. The beloved members of the delegation are now in their second homeland, and I am happy to have this chance to welcome my brothers. The hopes and aspirations of both sides are the same. We are the closest to each other among the Arabs. We pray God that henceforth, the march of real coordination and cooperation will resume. We have great expectations that wider Arab coordination and cooperation will take place in these difficult circumstances and in face of the challenges. There is much love for Lebanon in the hearts of all Jordanians from various origins. We are proud of our strong, brotherly, and continuous relations with God's care.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, Speaker Birri described you as the most patient Arab leader. How do you view the future of this region, especially Lebanon and Jordan?

[Husayn] This is nice coming from my brother, and it is an honor to me and to Jordan. In fact, these circumstances require patience. But on the other hand, we feel that these circumstances will not continue in terms of our suffering in the whole of the Arab world. Therefore, we are patient and we wait for a real awakening and a serious and meaningful Arab move. We believe in the Arab individual and that it is inevitable that he will have the right to live and will attain all his rights in his greater Arab homeland.

[Correspondent] Thank you Your Majesty.

[Husayn] Thank you. [end recording]

Birri: Discussions With King 'Open'

JN1704192894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Interview with Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, in Amman on 17 April—recorded]

[Text] [Dhiyab] Mr. Speaker, how would you describe your meeting with his majesty the king?

[Birri] In fact, I have had the honor today, as you know, of meeting with his majesty the king. This meeting was amicable, open, and deep, in which we discussed most issues and developments in the Arab, regional, and international arenas. Emphasis was placed on the pressures that sisterly Jordan is facing, and the military pressure to which Lebanon is subjected in its southern areas and in the western Biqa', and the brutal shelling that is taking place daily against our kinsfolk the civilians there. His majesty believes—and he is right in this—that these pressures are similar, and what is wanted from Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon is for them to deal separately with Israel and then to sign agreements with the Israeli enemy without consulting the other parties. This would wastes what is left of Arab rights. His majesty the king is determined and insistent in his position, which is the position of just and comprehensive peace. He hopes that all Arab countries will coordinate and will maintain solidarity, especially between Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

[Dhiyab] Mr. Speaker, in light of the size of these pressures on Jordan and Lebanon, what is required on the Arab level?

[Birri] In fact, at a minimum we need a unified Arab position that supports the cordon states. Regrettably, as you know, the Arab situation is divided. What is required is the restoration of Arab solidarity by any means, even if this solidarity takes the shape of coordination. We will continue to discuss this subject in the meetings with his highness the crown prince in order to reach a formula for a specific move in this direction.

Weekly Views Sharp Deterioration in Ties With Iraq

JN1904115494 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 18 Apr 94 pp 1, 11

[Text] The Jordanian-Iraqi relations have sharply deteriorated recently, particularly after the assassination of a prominent Iraqi opposition figure, Shaykh Talib al-Suhayl, by Iraqi diplomats in Beirut. His majesty's cable of condolences to the family of the deceased carried clear denunciation of the assassination. His majesty said that he "received the news with indignation and disgust," and that

"it was perpetrated by vicious hands which derive their ability to commit evil from sick hearts that have been so blinded by hatred that they are accustomed to shedding innocent blood, forgetting that nothing will save them from the wrath of man and God."

The killing of Shaykh al-Suhayl, who carried the Jordanian and Saudi nationalities and who is known for his friendship with his majesty the king and the Hashemites in Iraq, has put an end to the Jordanian-Iraqi attempts over the past two weeks to revive the Baghdad-Amman ties after a long period of stagnation and after Saudi Arabia insisted on its position and closed all doors of reconciliation with Jordan, which exerted tremendous efforts to mend fences.

Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, the Jordanian deputy prime minister, went to Iraq last week on a visit that was not officially announced, carrying a special message from the king to Saddam Husayn. The message stressed Jordan's concern to restrengthen the Iraqi-Jordanian relations and face the U.S. pressures directed against Jordan through the continuation of the unjust blockade of al-'Aqabah port.

President Saddam Husayn sent a reply which was brought to Amman by the Iraqi Information Minister Hamid Hammadi a few days ago. The Iraqi president welcomed the king's proposals and voiced Iraq's readiness to resume joint cooperation in the political and economic domains.

However, the Iraqi information minister's visit to Jordan started a crisis with Jordan instead of effecting channels of contacts between the two countries. This is because of the way the Jordanian media reported the visit, describing the Iraqi official as envoy of the Iraqi leadership in contrast with the Iraqi media description of him as President Saddam Husayn's envoy.

In order to ascertain if this allusion to the minister was an intentional move by the Jordanian decisionmakers or a media contrivance, the Iraqi side made contacts on all levels and was convinced that this was done by the Jordanian decisionmakers who wanted to officially ignore Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and depict Jordan as dealing with an Iraqi leadership and an Iraqi people.

This crisis could have been contained if al-Suhayl had not been assassinated on the same day the Iraqi president's envoy arrived in Amman. Accusations were leveled at the Iraqi leadership based on the fact the he was a prominent Iraqi opposition figure. Al-Suhayl left Baghdad in 1958 following the 14 July revolution. He held Jordanian and Saudi nationalities and his name was recently mentioned as the mastermind behind the assassination attempt against President Saddam Husayn revealed by the U.S. press recently.

Minister on Cabinet Decision To Sever Ties With Iraq

NC1804200594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Apr 94

[News conference by Information Minister Michel Samahah with unidentified correspondents at the Presidential Palace in B'abda on 19 Apr—recorded]

[Text] [Samahah] At the invitation of his excellency the president of the Republic, after his agreement with the prime minister, the Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting in the Presidential Palace in B'abda this evening.

The Council of Ministers was informed in detail of the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Shaykh Talib Suhayl in his home. There was an appropriate investigation into the crime, evidence was found, and testimony was taken.

As shown in the minutes of the meeting between the Iraqi charge d'affaires, at his request, with defendants Khalid 'Ulwan Khalaf and Muhammad Faris Kadhim in the presence of the Beirut police commander and his two aides, the two defendants confessed that they committed the crime on orders faxed to them from Baghdad. Both of them are active employees of the Iraqi Intelligence Directorate.

Despite hearing the two defendants' confession that they had carried out the crime on the orders of their leaders in Baghdad, the Foreign Ministry was notified by the Iraqi charge d'affaires that his government objects to lifting the immunity of these two employees.

In view of his insistence on not handing over the third and fourth defendants, who both work for the embassy's intelligence service; to avoid the occurrence of such crimes on our territories; and out of concern for insuring the safety of Lebanese citizens and all those residing in Lebanon, after due deliberation the Lebanese Government regrets that this approach was taken toward Lebanon now that it has restored peace and security. Some parties—including regrettably, an Arab state like Iraq—insist on violating all the established rules and norms by treating Lebanon as though it was an arena for foreign intelligence entities. This violates the Vienna agreement, which obliges diplomats to respect the laws of the countries where they are accredited. Therefore, the Lebanese Government has made the following decisions:

1. To sever diplomatic ties with the Iraqi state and to order the Foreign Ministry to request the Iraqi charge d'affaires and embassy staff to depart this country within 72 hours; and to reiterate the Lebanese Government's demand to hand over all the persons wanted in connection with this crime;

2. To ask the justice minister to emphasize the need for the competent judicial authorities to follow up on the investigations and expose whoever is connected to this crime and the activity of this apparatus, be they Lebanese or any other nationality.

3. Lebanon, which values the fraternal relations with the brotherly Iraqi people, rejects any tampering with its sovereignty, security and stability, and any violation of diplomatic norms. The Lebanese Government will inform Arab and international quarters of its decisions in this regard.

The cabinet also discussed the rising tension in the south as a result of the repeated Israeli aggression against the defenseless residents of the southern cities and villages. His excellency the prime minister reviewed the recent developments and the contacts in this regard in a bid to deter Israel's aggression. The Cabinet reiterated its full support for the southerners and the need to provide all the necessary requirements for their steadfastness in the face of this aggression, stressing that all facilities will be made available to them to enhance their steadfastness and help them remain there.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Samahah] It is premature to answer this question. However, it is clear from the statement that there are some people residing in Lebanon who have committed a crime on Lebanese territory. A certain state, by issuing certain orders, has carried out aggression against Lebanon.

[Correspondent] What about the Lebanese community in Iraq following the severing of ties?

[Samahah] The status of the Lebanese community in Iraq should be that of a community living in a country that is supposed to respect international law and treat those living on its territory in accordance with international law and all international agreements.

[Correspondent] Does the Lebanese Government intend to [words indistinct]?

[Samahah] You can find the answer to this question in our statement. We are still calling for the third and fourth defendants to be handed over to Lebanese judicial authorities.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] affect the joint interests of the two countries?

[Samahah] Following the aggression that has taken place, I believe that the matter has gone beyond concern over the joint interests and become a flagrant and direct aggression against Lebanon.

[Correspondent] How would you describe the situation following the attacks on Sidon, the recent escalation, and the U.S. message that Lebanon has received? Do you expect an escalation?

[Samahah] Whenever an Israeli Government faces an internal political problem or whenever world public opinion or the world's decisionmaking centers tend to sympathize with Arab rights, particularly Lebanon's, to regain their territories, the situation in the south becomes tense and Israel constantly escalates its aggression from the its occupied area in the south against the people, land, and property in the liberated territory.

[Correspondent] Is it true that there was a U.S. warning of a possible Israeli attack against the south?

[Samahah] The United States tried to explain what is happening in the south and to calm the situation through contacts with Lebanon and Israel.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Samahah] The Lebanese Government's response is very clear. We have no responsibility regarding the occupation. We have a responsibility to end it. Therefore, we have repeatedly demanded that UN Security Council Resolution 425 be implemented. When we regain sovereignty over our land in the south and the western al-Biqa', the security issue will be resolved. We are not the aggressors. Israel is occupying our land, and is attacking other parts of Lebanon from the occupied area. Any approach to us or any accusation made against us is unacceptable. We are not Israel's policemen. The international community must serve as a force to bring justice and restore the complete rights of Lebanon, the other Arab states, and the Palestinian people.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Samahah] We are awaiting the outcome of the investigation.

[Correspondent] Have you decided which Arab state will care for Lebanon's interests in Iraq after the break in relations?

[Samahah] No decision has yet been made in this regard. The Foreign Ministry will pursue this matter.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, with regard to [words indistinct]?

[Samahah] The officials responsible for these stations are fully aware of the controls, what a news report on economic activity means, and where the line should be drawn. So far no one has committed any violation in this regard. I am confident that all the media officials are capable, are aware of the seriousness of this period, and are aware of the importance of respecting the Council of Minister's decision. Let us cooperate to create a serious and secure atmosphere in the country. We are surrounded by major concerns at this time, and face grave dangers, such as the recent Iraqi attack, what is happening in the south, what is happening at home regarding the confiscation of large quantities of weapons and ammunition from various parties in various parts of Lebanon.

This process will continue. We are working on the media law, which we hope will not take long. Then matters will return to normal with the exercise of all liberties. The exercise of liberties goes on today. The Lebanese print media is operating normally within the law; and through them all Lebanese can express their views. This is in addition to the official media.

Our citizens want to be free mentally and psychologically of the state of war that has existed until recently and move to a state of law and order. They want to exercise their liberties and democracy under laws that are prepared by the Government and are legislated by the Chamber of Deputies for the good and interest of the Lebanese people. The Lebanese Constitution is based on respect of freedoms and respect of belief, personal freedom, expression.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Samahah, in English] The Lebanese Government has just cut its diplomatic relations with the Iraq state, and the minister of foreign affairs will tell the Iraqi diplomats tomorrow morning that they have 72 hours to be out of the Lebanese territories. We think that the Iraqi Government giving orders to some of its personnel in Lebanon to kill Arab citizens living in Lebanon has committed, has perpetrated, an aggression to Lebanon from one side, and has violated the Vienna Accord from another side. Thank you.

Ba'th Party Members Reportedly Arrested

NC1804185394 Paris AFP in English 1711 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, April 18 (AFP)—The authorities have arrested 12 Lebanese members of the ruling Iraqi Ba'th Party and handed over some of them to Syria, relatives said on Monday [18 April].

The men, who were not immediately identified, were seized at night last week from their homes in the Sidon region of south Lebanon by members of the Lebanese army intelligence services, they said.

The suspects were not presented with any arrest warrants, were not given any reasons for being rounded up and were not prosecuted, relatives said.

Reports of the alleged arrests coincided with strained ties between Lebanon and Iraq, after Baghdad refused to lift the immunity of two diplomats suspected of murdering a prominent Iraqi dissident in Beirut last week.

The Lebanese cabinet held an emergency session on Monday to discuss its relations with Iraq amid press speculation that Beirut could sever diplomatic ties with Beirut.

Iraq has denied any involvement in the murder of Talib Suhayl, a leader of the Free Iraqi Council opposition movement.

But Lebanese officials have said that Iraqi commercial attache Khalid Khalaf and cultural attache Muhammad Kamil Kazim had confessed their involvement in the killing. They have been detained since last Wednesday.

Syria is Iraq's main Arab rival. Damascus deploys some 35,000 troops in Lebanon.

Buwayz Comments on Palestinians, Peace Process

NC1804171994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Beirut, 18 Apr (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has reiterated his country's refusal to "naturalize and settle the Palestinians who are living inside the camps in Lebanon, who number between 400,000 and

500,000." He stressed that a solution to the Palestinian problem must not be at the expense of Lebanon.

In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR published today, Buwayz said that many Palestinians in Lebanon want to return to Palestine or to other countries that will provide them with better residential and living conditions. He added that Lebanon cannot absorb such a large number of Palestinians because it is small in area and also because of its particular political structure; therefore it cannot provide them with jobs or health, social, and educational opportunities.

He revealed that Lebanon has proposed to regional and international parties a political plan for solving the problem of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon by returning 20 percent of them to the territories on the West Bank and Gaza that are to come under Palestinian authority and distributing another 25 percent in some Arab countries where they could be reunited with their families.

The Lebanese foreign minister went on to say that there are some countries that accept expatriates, such as the United States, Australia, and Canada, and these could take the remaining Palestinians. He added that the multilateral negotiations will not be able to solve the Palestinian refugee problem until a comprehensive peaceful settlement in the region is reached.

Buwayz called on the United States to deal more effectively with Israel. He said that Washington has not played the role of an impartial mediator and driving force and has not yet exercised dynamic mediation, as it promised when the peace process began.

Buwayz stressed that the Arab side wants to provide every condition and opportunity for the success of these negotiations despite the difficulties and Israel's tardiness, for our side does not want to appear negative in the world's eyes.

He held Israel responsible for the collapse of the situation in south Lebanon, stressing that Lebanon will never abandon the principle of resistance as long as the occupation continues and Israel refuses to implement Security Council Resolution 425, which is based on withdrawal from the Lebanese territories.

Israeli Planes Raid Hizballah 'Stronghold'

NC1804113894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1119 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] We have just received word that Israeli military planes raided al-Luwayzah and the Iqlim al-Tuffah Heights four minutes ago.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 1118 GMT on 18 April adds the following: "Israeli warplanes blasted the south Lebanon stronghold of the Iranian-backed Hizballah guerrillas on Monday, police said.

["They said two fighter-bombers firJd four rockets at the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills southeast of the port city of Sidon. The raid caused a thick black cloud, police said.

["There was no immediate news of casualties."]

Israeli Planes Carry Out Mock Raids; 'Warning' Cited

NC1804123594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids over the Iqlim al-Tuffah Heights at 1345 today. The mock raids followed earlier Israeli aggression on 'Arab Salim and Humin. The aggression coincides with an Israeli warning broadcast by Israeli radio today. The radio quoted a military spokesman as saying: Troops may carry out a large-scale attack against Resistance positions in the south and they are ready to carry out their mission the moment they receive their orders.

Resistance Attacks Israeli Patrol

NC1904094194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces resumed their attacks on southern Lebanon. They bombarded Jabal Safi in Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning.

Meanwhile, Lebanese resistance groups detonated an explosive device as a joint Israeli-Lahdist infantry patrol was passing on the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah road today. All the patrol personnel were either killed or wounded.

Hizballah Said Responsible for Amal Official's Murder

NC1804155394 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Our correspondent reports that tension prevails between members of Amal and Hizballah activists in the southern villages following the murder of Ni'mah Khaldun Haydar, Amal's military official in the south, by a car bomb today.

Our correspondent adds that Amal activists in al-Nabatiyah and the neighboring villages accuse Hizballah of being responsible for the explosion, and that this explosion was perpetrated by the same people who have blown up cars belonging to Amal officials in Khirbat Silm, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and Bi'r al-Salasil in the past few months.

The same correspondent notes that there was a deep rift between Haydar and Hizballah members. There was an attempt on his life on 12 April 1990, when Hizballah members detonated an explosive device in Iqlim al-Tuffah which wounded Haydar.

Mistrust Between Hizballah Members, Leadership Noted

NC1804113694 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 11 Apr 94 pp 10, 11

[Text] Hizballah's rank and file are facing severe confusion after news was made public that the Hizballah leadership handed over 11 members to the Lebanese authorities for carrying arms during a celebration marking Jerusalem Day. Imam Khomeyni designated the last Friday in Ramadan every year to mark Jerusalem Day. The reason for this

confusion is that this overture could open the way for more drastic steps. This means that the Hizballah leadership represented by Hasan Nasrallah is unable to protect its members from government security agencies should they abide by organizational instructions. Hizballah members are asking why they should bear the brunt when all they did was to carry out what their leadership ordered, that is, to carry arms and appear in public places.

Hizballah members are asking if it is admissible for youths to pay the price for Nasrallah's decisions when failure to obey orders is considered a violation of the Velayat-e Faqih [rule by supreme jurisconsult], which is a sin. Hizballah members are also asking why Nasrallah should sleep safe and sound in his home under the protection of more than 100 heavily armed men while those who sincerely obeyed his organizational orders stay in Lebanese government jails. Is it not required to pursue the official who is responsible for giving the orders for members to carry arms in public, that is Nasrallah, instead of arresting ordinary members here and there and putting them in jail with all the humiliation of the dignity of these sincere youths?

Certain Hizballah members compare the situation within their organization to that of the Lebanese Forces some time ago when Samir Ja'ja' began to sell his low-ranking members to the Lebanese Government so that he and his close aides could avoid the block. However, this approach gradually led to giving up Fu'ad Malik, chief of staff of the Lebanese Forces, to stave off any danger to Ja'ja' personally. Hence, resentment against Nasrallah is mounting because members believe that the countdown has begun with the selling of Hizballah cadres according to deals, the price of which will be paid to Nasrallah and Hizballah members in the Chamber of Deputies.

An informed source has said that the government's success in apprehending Hizballah members under legal warrants has had a direct impact on confidence between Hizballah members in al-Biqa' and their leadership. He said that many Hizballah members now hesitate to carry out the decisions of the leadership in Beirut. They justify their hesitation by saying that the leadership may abandon them after implementing its decisions, like what happened to the members who carried out the Hizballah leadership's decision to carry arms in public during the celebration of Jerusalem Day. This leadership handed them over to the state to punish them for carrying arms in public.

The confidence crisis between Hizballah members and their leadership deepened after Hizballah's Voice of the Oppressed radio, which transmits from Ba'labakk, laid off several employees in its Political Programs Department after the government's decision on audio and visual media. It is worth noting that most employees in this radio are Hizballah members.

Lebanese-Syrian Committee Discusses Electricity

JN1804171094 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic
10 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Beirut—The joint Syrian-Lebanese committee for electricity affairs held a meeting yesterday in Beirut.

Nasri Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council, announced that the discussion dealt with two main topics: the establishment of a joint training center, and a grid link between the two fraternal countries.

Khuri pointed out that it was agreed to exchange expertise in the electricity field with regard to power stations, grids, and other technical aspects.

Regarding the grid link, Khuri said that it was agreed to prepare the power lines coming from 'Anjar Power Station and the northern region for the exchange of energy before the end of 1994.

Khuri revealed that several projects are under discussion to increase the power link between the two countries.

Regarding the agenda of the next meeting, Khuri said the building of a power station will be the subject of the next meeting. The current idea, he added, is to build this station on Lebanese territory, in the northern region of al-Biddawi, in order to benefit from the waters of the southern al-Nahr al-Kabir River for the cooling operations.

India

Offer of Talks With Pakistan Called 'Baseless'

BK1804153594 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1510 GMT 18 Apr 94

["Official spokesman's statement"]

[Text] We have seen reports in the media regarding an alleged Indian offer for talks with Pakistan at the political level. These reports are wholly speculative and baseless. It will be recalled, however, that India has always shown readiness to resolve all outstanding issues with Pakistan bilaterally through negotiations as envisaged in the Simla Agreement. We have repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan in the recent months our willingness to hold a comprehensive dialogue at the foreign secretary level. We are awaiting Pakistan's formal response.

Additional Battalions To Combat 'Terrorism' in Kashmir

BK1804160494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 40 more battalions of paramilitary forces are to be raised to combat the menace of terrorism. The state additional chief secretary, Mr. Mamhmudur Rahman, in an interview with Radio Kashmir said that the force will be equipped with sophisticated arms to effectively meet the terrorist threat.

Army Foils Attempt To Smuggle Arms in Kashmir

BK1804145994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Army has foiled yet another bid by Pakistani infiltrators to smuggle in a large quantity of arms and ammunition through the northern sector into the Kashmir state. A Defense Ministry spokesman told newsmen in Srinagar that this is the biggest cache of arms recovered so far this year. It includes 32,000 rounds of ammunition, 92 hand grenades, 203 antipersonnel mines and a large quantity of incriminating documents. A massive hunt has been launched to trace the arms couriers. Meanwhile, security forces launched a huge search operation this morning in the Batmalu area and adjoining localities to nab militants.

Elsewhere in the state, 10 militants have been killed during the past 24 hours. Of these three were killed in intergang rivalry.

'Dreaded Militant' Among 4 Killed in Punjab

BK1904070594 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] In Punjab, dreaded militant Avtar Singh, the deputy chief of the Babbar Khalsa, was among four militants killed in an encounter in Punjab. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them. Police officials say the security forces cordoned off an area near Sangrur on a tip-off, leading to the encounter. Avtar Singh carried an award of 10 lakh rupees. Police say the gang led by Avtar Singh was responsible for over 100 killings in Punjab. Avtar Singh visited Pakistan on numerous occasions and brought back consignments of weapons to Punjab.

Government Calls For Cease-Fire in Bosnia

BK1904093194 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0905 GMT 19 Apr 94

["Press release dated 18-4-94"]

[Text] The Government of India views the recent escalation of tension in Bosnia and Herzegovina and specifically around Gorazde with deep concern. The lives of innocent citizens and UN peace-keepers have once again come under unwarranted threat. A ceasefire must be put in place and respected and the peace process resumed without delay so that there can be movement towards a political settlement which is irreversible and acceptable to all parties. The Government of India calls upon all parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina to eschew the futile pursuit of a military solution as this only results in endless bloodshed which is abhorrent to the international community. We call for the immediate resumption of the process of negotiations.

Rao, Mukherjee Defend Signing of GATT Accord

BK1904043694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Parliament will today take up discussion on the new World Trade Treaty to replace the GATT agreement. This will follow a suo moto statement by the government in both the houses of Parliament today. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, told our correspondent that this was decided in the speaker's chamber yesterday in the presence of the leaders of the opposition.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has defended the signing of the treaty by India. He asserted that the opposition's criticism against the government for taking the step will be warded off. Speaking at a function after presenting G.D. Birla awards for scientific research in New Delhi yesterday, he said that the Indian economy should be integrated with the world economy. This, he said, cannot be achieved without science and technology in the country integrating with that in the world. The awards were received by Dr. Masilkar and Professor Raghuwamsh. The awards carry 1 lakh rupees each.

Addressing the annual session of the Confederation of Indian Industry, [Commerce Minister] Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said the agreement provides both challenges and opportunities to step up the export of agricultural products and textiles.

Laser-Based Simulator System Designed for Training

BK1904080694 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] A new laser-based simulator system has been designed by the BHEL [Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited] at Bangalore. It will be used by the defense and paramilitary forces for training exercises without using live ammunition.

[Begin correspondent recording] With the use of IWESS, that is the Infantry Weapon Effect Simulator System, the defense as well as police department and other paramilitary forces have found a way of training their forces systematically without wasting ammunition and definitely without any harm or loss of life. The IWESS is a laser-based system which simulates the effect of small arms, live-fire in field exercises. It gives the [word indistinct] the realism of being able to accurately use his personal weapons in a two-sided exercise. At the same time, it provides immediate feedback on effectiveness of his own fire position, weapons [word indistinct] and use of ground cover. The electronics division of Bharat Heavy Electricals, Bangalore has diversified into the manufacture of this simulator system of various types for defense application. The equipment can be used for a wide range of weapons and will operate when fitted with a blank firing attachment. [end recording]

Iran

Car Bomb Explodes in Tehran; Injuries Reported

LD1904090394 Tehran IRNA in English 0848 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—A bomb planted in a car parked under an overpass at Tehran's Sa'di Avenue went off around noon today, the law enforcement forces told IRNA.

The explosion damaged a number of other cars parked near the scene of the incident and smashed a large number of window panes of nearby shops and homes.

Eyewitnesses said that a number of bypassers, including two women holding their children in their arms, were injured who were rushed to a Tehran hospital.

So far no group has assumed responsibility for the explosion.

Iraqi 'Saboteurs' Blamed

LD1904102794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The explosion of a bomb in the vicinity of Tehran's Sa'di Avenue caused some damage today. According to the Central News Unit, the bomb was apparently planted inside a car that was parked under Sa'di Bridge. As a result of the explosion, one vehicle was destroyed, a number of passing vehicles suffered some damage, and the windows of several shops were broken.

Fortunately, the incident did not cause any deaths. According to witnesses, a number of passersby were injured in the incident.

Reliable security sources have announced: The Iraqi regime has recently sent four persons to Iran plant bombs for the purpose of sabotage, and today's explosion was caused by these same saboteurs.

President Receives Message From Bosnia's Izetbegovic

LD1804172394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Bosnia-Herzegovina President Alia Izetbegovic today sent a message to the president of our country from Sarajevo. The text of this message is as follows:

Your Excellency Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Dear Mr. President: I am sure that Your Excellency is aware of the tragedy that has befallen the inhabitants of Gorazde. The Serbian Army, which for the past two years, before the eyes of the world, has committed barbaric crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, is at the moment laying siege to a city that has 70,000 inhabitants, most of whom are women and children. The people of that city are desperately awaiting the assistance of international organizations.

Dear brother, at the most difficult and hard times, the Iranian people and Government have been with us and have helped us. Therefore, we will never feel alone. We are confident that you and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will make every effort to defend the inhabitants of Gorazde and to prevent their destruction [soqut-e hasti], in view of the spiritual values which we adhere to.

Our faith and certainty in the brotherly assistance of Iran gives us the confidence to remain steadfast during these very critical moments.

May the merciful and compassionate God protect you with his blessings. With the most sincere greetings,

[Signed] Alia Izetbegovic

[Dated] 17 [as heard] April 1994, Sarajevo

Speaks With Izetbegovic

LD1804191794 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke by phone with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, and in response to his written mesage, talked about the latest situation in the conflict areas, especially in Gorazde.

In this telephone conversation, our president, referring to the deep sorrow of the officials and members of the public, from the esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution down to the Government and the people of Iran, for the bitter and painful events of Bosnia, which are taking place in front of the indifferent eyes of the world, said: When the United Nations refused the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to dispatch forces to defend the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the areas that had been declared as safe havens by the same organization, the Iranian people realized that international organizations and countries are not serious in their claims of defending the defenseless people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The president added: Now that the United Nations has openly declared its inability to defend the wronged Bosnian nation, the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to send forces to the areas under the supervision of that organization and to defend the rights of the Muslim Bosnian people. Iran also welcomes the assistance of other countries.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also asked the president of Bosnia-Herzegovina to convey the greetings and feelings of sympathy of the Iranian people to the oppressed Bosnian people. They should regard the Islamic Republic of Iran as a partner in their affliction and they should be assured that, as far as possible, the Iranian Government and people will not desert them in their struggle to achieve their legitimate rights.

Velayati Comments on Conversation With Butrus-Ghali

NC1904110194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The foreign minister contacted the UN secretary general by telephone last night and reiterated the Islamic Republic's readiness to dispatch forces to Bosnia. Velayati criticized the UN's policies and asked Butrus-Ghali: Is the fall of Gorazde not a prologue to the Serbs' attacks on other safe havens and the repetition of the Gorazde tragedy in vaster dimensions?

In answer to the criticisms by the Islamic Republic's foreign minister, the UN secretary general spoke about his efforts to solve the Bosnian problem, saying that he tried to encourage influential countries in the Security Council to defend Gorazde but that he failed. Butrus-Ghali promised to inform the Security Council of Iran's reiteration of its readiness to dispatch forces to Bosnia.

Minutes ago we contacted Velayati and asked him to comment on his contacts last night with the UN secretary general. Velayati said: Because of our repeated statements that we are ready to dispatch forces to Bosnia, Butrus-Ghali was mentally ready for this and promised that after holding talks with the Security Council members tonight he will inform us of the outcome of his steps concerning Iran's readiness to dispatch forces.

The second question we put to Velayati was: Two days ago the UN secretary general said that the only solution to the Bosnian problem is through talks. But in his remarks to you last night, he said that the Security Council members are not replying positively to his efforts for a military effort in Gorazde. There is a contradiction in these two stances.

In answer, Velayati described the future steps to be taken by our country as far as the Bosnian crisis is concerned:

[Begin Velayati recording] He [Butrus-Ghali] added last night that he has asked NATO to act but NATO has refrained. Of course, there is no doubt that the United Nations has displayed its inability in this field. Unfortunately, this organization and especially the Security Council has been transformed into a forum where big powers exercise their influence on it in order to fulfill their own intentions, and the innocent people in hotbeds become victims of the greed of influential powers in the Security Council.

Of course Mr. Butrus-Ghali has not used the power that the UN Charter has given him. On the basis of Article 99 of the UN Charter, when the Security Council is unable or unwilling to take a serious step to preserve world security and peace, the secretary general can use the UN tribune to call for help from world public opinion to overcome the specific problem that is threatening peace and security in some part of the world. But Mr. Butrus-Ghali has not made use of this power.

I told him last night: I want to know your opinion because after my conversation with you I intend to call the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general and the Pakistani foreign minister who is the current president of the ICO and some others in order to organize the steps to be taken by Islamic countries. I want to know your opinion; and these are the next steps that we plan to take.

In tandem with our conversation, [Iranian UN representative] Dr. Kharrazi informed us from New York that he attended the contact group session there and that he proposed that the foreign ministers of the ICO contact group hold an emergency session in New York and call for presence in the Security Council to seriously discuss the issue at the Security Council. [end recording]

Minutes ago, IRNA reported from the United Nations that the UN secretary general discussed Iran's readiness to dispatch forces [to Bosnia] with Security Council members and that as usual, the Security Council did not make any decision on this.

Foreign Ministry Criticizes UN's 'Inability' in Bosnia

LD1804175994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry has issued a statement in the wake of the bestial attacks launched by the Serbs against the Muslim-inhabited town of Gorazde and the accompanying silence of the international forums. The statement criticizes the United Nations for holding back from forcing the Serbs to abide by the international regulations and accuses the United Nations of playing a part in the crimes committed by the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The statement says: Iran considers the United Nation's inability to carry out its duties as unjustifiable and once again calls on that organization's secretary general to accept the Islamic countries' proposal to dispatch troops to Bosnia and attempt to lift the arms embargo against that country's defenseless people, thus preventing the continuation of Serbian crimes in Bosnia.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Zlenko Concludes Visit

Discusses Bosnia, Other Topics

LD1804182094 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—Ukrainian foreign minister, Anatoliy Zlenko, and Iran's vice-speaker of the

Majles, Hassan Ruhani, here Monday discussed issues of mutual interests and international and regional developments including the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Zlenko described Tehran-Kiev ties as "good" and called for further strengthening of mutual relations in cultural, economic and diplomatic fields.

Zlenko who arrived here Sunday on a three-day official visit also briefed Ruhani on the recent parliamentary election in Ukraine.

Ruhani for his part expressed pleasure over the developments in the former Soviet Union and over the independence of its republics.

On the plight and genocide of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina Ruhani critisized international organizations for their indifference and called for regional cooperation to put an end to the crimes being committed by the Serbs.

He described the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina as the "century's greatest disaster".

Commenting on Iran's mediation efforts in Tajikistan and the Caucasus, Ruhani called for international and regional cooperation to defuse the tensions.

The vice-speaker of the Majles also underlined promotion of Kiev-Tehran parliamentary ties.

Joint Statement Released

LD1804190094 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Ukrainian counterpart, Anatoliy Zlenko, here on Monday emphasized further expansion of political, economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

In a joint statement released simultaneously in Tehran and Kiev at the end of Zlenko's two-day visit, they stressed the need for continuation of consultation and cooperation to resolve regional problems and restore peace and security especially in the former Soviet republics.

Velayati and Zlenko voiced satisfaction with the existing economic relations and the removal of difficulties in expansion of relations.

According to the statement, the first Tehran-Kiev joint economic commission is due to be held in Tehran in the near future.

The two foreign ministers also signed a letter of understanding on consular affairs, and later attended the opening ceremony of the Ukrainian Embassy in Tehran.

Zlenko said in his inaugural speech that officials of the two countries should make effort to consolidate Tehran-Kiev ties.

He hoped that President Hashemi-Rafsanjani would visit Ukraine in the near future.

Velayati who also addressed the gathering, described the potential and areas of cooperation between the two countries as very extensive.

He said the upcoming visit of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Ukraine would be effective in further expansion of bilateral ties.

The Islamic Republic of Iran was one the first countries to recognize the independence of Ukraine following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Zlenko left for home today and was seen off at Mehrabad airport by Velayati.

Sudanese Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

LD1804182394 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—Sudanese Deputy Foreign Minister Yusuf 'Umar Baradah arrived here Monday on a three-day official stay and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Hashemi at the airport.

Talking to reporters upon his arrival, Barideh described Tehran-Khartoum ties as "excellent" and said his government was for further expansion of the "cordial bilateral relations" in various fields.

Baradah, who carries a written message from Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih for his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati, said Iran and Sudan are the target of adverse propaganda for their efforts to implement Islamic laws.

He said his government was proud of Iranian and Sudanese officials' adoption of an independent political and economic path which has led to growing ties between the two countries.

Hashemi referred to the age-old cultural, historical and religious commonalities between Iran and Sudan and underscored expansion of bilateral relations.

Meets Counterpart

LD1904090594 Tehran IRNA in English 0640 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—The visiting deputy foreign minister of Sudan, Yusuf 'Umar Baridah, and his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Hashemi urged lifting of arms embargo on Bosnians and called on world Muslims to take serious measures in this connection.

In a meeting here Monday, the two sides discussed international developments including crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina and termed the double-standard of the West, especially the U.S., as "cruel and unacceptable". The two officials also criticized procrastination of the U.N. and the West towards massacre of Bosnian Muslims by Serbian forces.

Pointing to the issue of hajj, Hashemi regretted new restrictions being imposed by Saudi Arabia on the number of Iranian hajj pilgrims. He stressed that if Muslims were

allowed to raise problems facing the Islamic world during hajj rituals and could make proper decisions themselves, the world arrogance could never find a chance to interfere in their internal affairs.

Baridah, who arrived here Monday on a three-day visit, discussed expansion of bilateral relations in all fields. He also underlined the religious and political importance of hajj.

Consequences of Jordan Closing Hamas Office Viewed

LD1704115794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0950 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The action taken by Jordan to ban political activities of the office of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Amman will make the Zionist regime more aggressive and encourage its interference in regional countries' internal affairs.

Even though Jordanian authorities have said that the measure has been adopted within the framework of their country's political position vis-a-vis the Palestine crisis, no one is in doubt that the will of the Zionist regime has also influenced the decision.

The Hamas office in Amman, respecting the sovereignty of the Government of Jordan, continued its solely political and propaganda activities in support of the legitimate and legal struggle of the oppressed nation of Palestine until Rabin, the prime minister of the Zionist regime said that Jordan provided shelter for the Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine. [passage omitted]

In reaction to the closure of its office in Jordan, the Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine warned the Zionist regime that it should not extend the scope of the conflict to outside the occupied Palestine. So far the Palestinian movement of Hamas has limited the scope of its organizational and jihad operations against the Zionist regime to within the occupied territories; and in order to avoid repeating the mistake of the PLO in diverting from the main struggle, it has not carried even a single guerrilla operation against the Zionist regime outside the borders of Palestine.

The political and propaganda activities of the political office of Hamas in Jordan, contrary to past PLO activities in that country, have, so far, not created any kind of problem. Therefore, its closure is only due to foreign pressure, particularly by the Zionist regime and probably its Western supporters.

That is why it is probable that this decision of the Jordanian Government would have negative consequences on the public opinion of Islamic countries, particularly Jordan, where most of the population are Palestinians and have strong pro-Islamic tendencies.

In the opinion of political analysts, the exertion of pressure by Israel on Jordan and Jordan's leniency can have other unpleasant consequences. Such actions will encourage direct and indirect efforts by Tel Aviv to limit activities of Palestinian organizations in other countries of the region and such interference, due to their aggressive nature, would definitely create tension. Also, the aggressive nature of the Zionist regime and its clear interference in the internal affairs of the countries of the region may spread the scope of the Muslim peoples' confrontation against the Zionist regime from the occupied territories to beyond them. Such a situation, in the first instance, will be detrimental to the Zionist regime and the compromising Arab governments.

President Discusses Subsidies, Army, Bosnia in Sermons

LD1504113394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] In today's Friday prayers sermons in Tehran, the president stressed the need to reform the system of payment of various subsidies. In his debate on the issue of social justice, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to subsidies paid by the government, and said: The situation regarding subsidies during recent years has in effect constituted a kind of injustice. This has of course been alleviated.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then set out to describe the details of this year's budget, and said: During the current year [ending 21 March 1995], 600 billion tomans will be paid in form of various subsidies. Of course, a large proportion of these will be distributed in a fair manner. However, this system must undergo a comprehensive reform.

The president added: About half of the said sum will be earmarked to basic commodities, so that the people can obtain cheap edible oil, rice, and sugar. Of course, in a healthy economy, only those with a low purchasing power should be able to benefit from such subsidies.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, moreover, announced the sums allocated to payment of various subsidies, and added: In sectors such as agriculture, culture, education, and purchase of medicine and dried milk, payment of subsidies to the deprived strata who are covered by Imam Relief Committee or other organization is fair. However, payment of bread subsidies does not constitute a fair system. This system should be revised according to a systematic plan, with a view to political and social prerogatives, so that the said subsidies may be available only to certain strata. One must also do something about fuel, so that by regulating the method of payment of these subsidies, fairness can be introduced into this system. This is because every year around 20 trillion rials of the country's reserves are spent on fuel without any considerable return. The situation in other countries, however, is clearly different.

The president stressed: The present situation, under which everyone, even the well-off strata and those without a real need, benefit from subsidies, is an injustice to the really needy people. This situation should be changed.

The president then referred to the occasion of Army Day, 29 Farvardin [18th April]. He praised the services of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the years after the victory of the Islamic revolution. He said: The role of the army during the war was highly worthy of praise. Alongside the sacrifices of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, Basij and other defense institutions, the army was a highly reliable entity. He then said that solving the problems of military personnel is in harmony with solving the problems of society's other strata.

On Bosnia, the president said: Because of apathy and the weak attitude of the United Nations, and other organizations, the Serbs' impudence has reached a level that they even express an opposition toward the forces of that [UN] organization. The interim Friday imam of Tehran added: This ugly attitude of the West has, in fact, caused disgust among human society; since the experience of the Iraqi attack on Kuwait has shown that Western powers, if they wish, can stop the Serbs' aggression.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the continuing clashes in Afghanistan as regrettable and called on the leaders of jihadi groups to show forgiveness and refrain from seeking power so as to reach a solution to the existing problems. The president said: The continuation of this situation has, in practice, made it impossible to help the Afghan people.

Discusses Government Expenses

LD1504143194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1032 GMT 15 Apr 94

[First Friday prayers sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 15 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] In my first sermon in the new year I have the opportunity to continue on the subject of social justice, to which my first sermons are usually devoted. Of course, some times there are many topical issues—there are exceptions—but I will try to tell you about the rest of the subject in other sermons this year. [passage omitted]

In my talks in recent weeks about financial issues between the government and the people I referred to some aspects of social justice. Today we will talk in general terms and about a specific point that we mentioned in previous talks.

Basically, one of the important manifestations of social justice concerns financial relations between governments and people, both in government revenues and expenses. Government resources—we are like others—come either from the country's natural resources, taxes, payments received for services rendered to the public, or from public charity and donations, and so forth. They constitute budget revenues.

Expenses are either for services that are the government's duty, such as defense, education, health, treatment, communications, infrastructural work, justice, security, legislation, and all the usual tasks of governments. For every sector there is usually an official responsible, called a minister. Or there are expenses for the country's construction and development, which is part of the development expenditure, or expenses to help the needy.

When all of that is done properly social justice prevails in that sector. If they take anything from the people unfairly, it is an injustice. And if they spend unfairly that is an injustice, too. It is very very difficult for a government to be in control of itself and the society to such an extent that all its expenditure and revenues are really fair. [passage omitted]

Today I will not talk about taxes, which I talked about last year, or development and services revenues. Since today's talk is the continuation of other sermons I will talk about expenses. The sermon will be short. And regarding expenses I will talk about one type of expenditure in this sermon. [passage omitted]

As I have said before, it is during periods of crises, such as war, earthquakes, floods, or other natural disasters, that government assistance in the form of subsidies is introduced. If there is a plan, then such subsidies will be only temporary and will come to an end. However, if there are other influences in place, then subsidies will have to remain. Unfortunately, in our country many of the subsidies that have been introduced at various times for different reasons have remained in force. This has caused the weakening of the foundation of the country's economic system, while at the same time giving rise to severe injustices throughout the course of the history. It has brought about injustices that, on the surface, seem like justice and charity. The people, on the other hand, mainly remain unaware, while the officials do not dare bring about reforms.

The reason for not reforming the system is that governments chiefly serve for only a short time, whereas such reforms are possible only in the long-term. If a government decides to reform the system of subsidies, it will upset at least its contemporary generation. The generation that will benefit from the results are often served by a future government.

For this reason, when governments come to power, they try to do what is good and expedient merely for the present time. They not only continue this wrong trend, but also add to and enhance it. This has happened in our country many times.

The figures that I am going to put forward today in very simple terms will show you what your country's budget is all about, and what your government's expenditures are in the sphere of provision of aid and assistance. If the people of our country become aware of what we officials already know, they certainly will not remain happy with the present situation. Of course, during the course of the first plan, we tried to avoid this unhealthy trend, and we managed to regulate a large part of our subsidies. However, there is still a large gap that needs to be filled, and this has to be accomplished through implementing a proper program.

This is necessary because people cannot be put under pressure, as this will prove dangerous.

At this point, I would like to mention a general figure. The total sum of the budget approved by the Majles this year is 69 trillion rials, that is 69 thousand billion rials. This figure, naturally, might not mean much to the majority of our people, as they do not really deal with figures amounting to a trillion; they mainly deal with hundreds, thousands, and millions. Trillion, therefore, might seem a bit strange.

Out of the said figure, around 35 trillion rials belongs to state organizations and companies that are active in the country's economic system. We do not wish to deal with such entities here. Around 32 to 33 trillion make up the government's overall budget, which is to be earned by oil exports or from sources such as taxation and provision of services. Out of this sum, around 3 trillion rials belongs exclusively to the apparatus [dastgah], which should not be taken into account [as heard]. Thirty trillion rials, nonetheless, makes up our budget. That is to say a budget that runs all our ministries, such as the oil, energy, communications, defense, agriculture, education, higher education, and health ministries. The budget for some of these ministries, such as defense and education is very large, while the budget allocated to some others is relatively small.

So, alongside this, all the government's budget comes to 30 trillion. We have one item outside the government's budget that is the people's fuel; this is not included in this. The fuel that the people use, such as gasoline, diesel, mazut, electricity and gas.... [pauses] These are the things the people use. We use around 1.4 million barrels of oil for this, and around 800,000 barrels of gas. So in total, we use around 2 million or 2.2 million barrels of oil. And this is not even included in the budget. We do not have any income for this. We take it from wells, we refine it, and transport it. The money that we receive from the people just about covers the cost of this very same job, in other words to extract oil from the well, etc. I am not including investment in this. I am talking about the cost of refining and transporting it, and placing it in storage tankers for the people to use. In other words, around $11 billion—OPEC's average price of oil is around $13 dollars [per barrel] today—of the people's money, the people's treasury, is used by us without receiving any income in return. The people burn this amount. This comes to around 20 trillion rials, in other words, two-thirds of the total budget with today's prices. Of course, with last year's price, it was higher, it was enough for everything.

So 20 trillion rials are taken out for free from the treasury which the people use. Of course, this is not the case in other countries, we are practically alone in this situation. This 2 million barrels of oil that I have said we use is valued at $11 billion; in comparison, France uses and in return receives $40 billion from its people. In other words, France has an income. And the tax is not its own [as heard]. It buys oil from abroad, brings it home, sells it to the people, and takes $40 billion from the people in tax. The same applies to Germany and many other places. However, this trend has continued in Iran since the war, the old war, World War II. No one has had the guts to correct this trend, and there has been no planning for this.

That is a section that is not related to this part of my remarks. There are also subsidies for which each year we ask permission of the Majlis before distributing among the people. During those five years, we made efforts and reformed the subsidies that were not fair. In most cases, the subsidies only benefited the richer strata and the deprived strata did not even receive them. That went on for most of those five years, but you will see from the list that I read to you that we still have fundamental problems. That means that subsidies have not been fair. [passage omitted] Subsidies are one fifth of the total budget for this year [beginning 21 March 1994]. That is 600 billion toman or 6 trillion rials. That figure is not exact, I have rounded it up to the next figure. [passage omitted]

I am going to read you the list that I think will be useful for our people to know. Something around half of that figure is paid for subsidies for basic goods. That is wheat, sugar, cooking oil, rice, meat, and other goods. That is, the government pays around 300 billion tomans so that bread prices stay the same and people can purchase cheap cooking oil, rice, and sugar. As I said, in a healthy economy such goods should have their real price and the ones who are poor should receive help from the government. [passage omitted] One of the things that is not just is this. This is an injustice. It really does not make sense for someone who can waste so much money in his life to be able to buy bread made with flour at nine rials per kilogram from the government or cooking oil at 30 or 40 rials per kilogram or cheap rice or sugar at 20 or 30 rials per kilogram. The government has to buy the flour from the farmer for 270 rials to give it to that gentleman, sugar for 700 rials, and so on.

This is unjust, not for the poor: The poor should get these things. However, unfortunately, we are implementing this injustice in our country at the moment. We are spending part of everyone's wealth, the public wealth for the advantage of people who do not need it and who should be giving instead of receiving.

That is one thing. Half of that 600 I mentioned. The next thing relates to the agricultural sector. Our expenditure in that sector is more or less just and fair. It poses no problem as far as we are concerned. In terms of fertilizer and pesticides this year—I am referring now to figures proposed by the cabinet to the Majlis. Of course, the Majlis reduced these figures to some extent, but it has elsewhere allowed the full figures, if we have the revenue. The assumption has been that we will not have the revenue, but if we do, we can spend it. We are spending 600 billion rials for fertilizer and pesticides, that is, 60 billion tomans. We spend 10 billion tomans on improved seeds so that farmers will have a better harvest. We spend 10 billion tomans to cover unexpected damages suffered by farmers, such as diseases affecting their crops. And we spend six billion tomans on insurance funds for farmers. In other words, we give about 626 billion rials to the agricultural sector.

There is nothing wrong with this, because the farmer is a producer after all and the government itself is a purchaser. We have to take this into account. We buy wheat [as heard] for 270 rials per kilogram. If we did not give them that money, we would have to buy it for 300 or 350 rials. We buy it cheaper; we do not see this as unfair. We believe that we can keep paying these sums for however long; it does not matter.

In terms of cultural matters: We give a lot of assistance. We are not unhappy about this either. All these things have been adjusted in recent years. We give 5 billion tomans to the press: newspapers, magazines, and so on. We spend 2 billion tomans on the publication of books and book fairs. We spend 3 billion tomans on the publication of books for school children. And we spend about 3 billion tomans for the education of martyrs' families, schools for martyrs' families. We spend 6 billion tomans on providing free school meals for poor children in underprivileged areas, on subsidizing meals for university students, and so on. All this relates to our cultural expenditure about which we are not unhappy and which we do not consider to be unjust. These are well spent.

Another item that we pay for is the specific strata. For example, the Imam [Khomeyni] Relief Committee. We give 40 billion tomans to the Imam Relief Committee, that it spends on the needy. The committee itself has a large income. They help people in towns and villages, and people are satisfied with this. This is justified.

This year we want to start social and medical insurance for those who are not workers or civil servants. We have set aside 5.5 billion tomans for these two sectors this year. This is only the start of the work. There is absolutely no problem with this. This is fair, we are contributing to certain people's insurance.

To the Martyr's Foundation and the families of martyrs—they are the real owners of our wealth, they have inherited the revolution—we give 40 billion tomans. This is a small help to these families who have given their all to the revolution. To the freemen [former POWs], the freemen's headquarters, we give 1.5 billion tomans. We do not give anything to the Disabled Foundation, because the wealth of the Oppressed Foundation is at their disposal, around 20 billion tomans, as has been reported to us. This has not been included in my calculations.

We have other costs that can be justified or not. We are telling the people this so that they will be informed. This year we have set aside 21 billion tomans for the pilgrims, to pay for the difference. Of course, some people believe that these people have for a number of years put down a deposit, and if the money was in their hands, it would have grown. But in any case, the government has not seen any benefit from this. Twenty one billion tomans is paid so that those who are eligible can go to Mecca and come back. This comes from the pockets of the poor, the needy, and the people. If we were to act correctly, we would not help the pilgrims at all. In fact, we should have received something from them. But as I have already said, since we have taken a deposit from the people—the exchange rate was seven tomans to the dollar in those days, and we for no reason we used to provide dollars at an exchange rate of seven tomans to the dollar—we are now paying.

We pay for the difference in the price of medical equipment. There is no problem with this, although both rich and poor benefit from this. In any case, this comes to 13 billion tomans. We subsidize medicine and powdered milk. Although the rich benefit from this, it does not matter, we can accept this. The figure for this is very high: 457 billion rials or 45 billion tomans. The government pays this so medicine can reach people cheaply. Of course, some people betray cheap medicine. They take it out of the country or put it on the black market. This is the worst crime. We give 75 billion rials to the Red Crescent; it has a good income. We have no problem with this either. The Welfare [Organization] receives 242 billion rials. This organization helps the disabled, the retarded, and the needy. We give this organization 24 billion tomans and we have no problems with this either.

To the sick who go abroad for treatment—of course we only send those who have to go, not everyone, we send those we cannot treat at home—we give 4.5 billion tomans. If they do not cheat, if they use the money for treatment abroad, we have no problems with this, it is not unjust.

To those we send abroad on a grant for education, we give 14 billion tomans. Of course, we pay them in dollars; I have converted the figure to rials. There is a great difference in the costs between those who study in Iran and abroad. If they really do study, return to Iran and place their know-how at the services of the people.... [pauses] This is a good investment, we are satisfied with this, it is not unjust. But if they themselves and members of their families are going to benefit from this expensive investment, then this is the same as oppression. It is a very important issue.

Regarding damage caused by floods and accidents, we spend 12 billion tomans. This is not unfair. People suffer from disasters and the government must assist them.

Regarding loans for housing or investment for underprivileged people as stipulated in Clauses 3, 4, 5, 6 and so on—this relates more to underprivileged areas, to former combatants, to cooperatives—this amounts to about 100 billion rials in payments made to cover the charges. The bank asks for the charges and we pay them for this, so that it is not too expensive.

All this amounts to about 620 billion tomans; I read you the list. They will publish this list in the papers eventually and you can study it closely. You will see that most of our subsidies are not unfair now. That is, with respect to the sectors I mentioned.

However, for one thing, the issue of bread is unfair in several respects. First, because part of the people in our rural areas do not take advantage of the inexpensive bread. Although it has been stated in the budget that this subsidy should be made fair, should be made equal; but this is no mean task because it would require raising the price of bread in towns and we are not able to do this yet—in terms of the political and social considerations that have to be

taken into account on the basis of plans, in a suitable order and at the appropriate time. This is one thing that we must think about.

Another issue is, as I said, the question of fuel where the assistance is unfair. If we correct the problems relating to these two or three things, we will not be acting unfairly in our aid expenditure. This is an enormous task. As I said, it is not the norm for governments that have a limited lifetime to lay themselves open to a great deal of criticism, to do the right thing, be scorned for it and be pleased about this. It is a difficult task, but it must be done. The country's officials, the Majlis, the cabinet, the press and the other media must all work together and inform the people. Then, we can correct this incorrect aspect of our economy. It is our duty to implement social justice, to bring about a fair system of distribution, to help the needy and to allow those who are not needy to help themselves. These are not things to which a Muslim official can be indifferent.

Of course, these things must be done slowly in view of the fact that the revolution itself must be preserved, the society's conditions must be safeguarded, the people's morale must be maintained, we have to deal with pressures exerted by foreign countries and so on. We must proceed according to plans. Fortunately, during these past four or five years, we have put up with some criticism and carried out changes

so that public property is no longer spent on many other things for which the expenditure was not necessary: industrial goods, non-basic goods. We separated these from government foreign exchange and moved them into the open market. They are now moving along their own economic channels. Of course, the question of control is another issue altogether. That must be carried out in its own place.

God willing, I hope that, with the explanations I have provided today—analysts can perhaps evaluate these explanations or add to them and inform the society—we can all work together in order to bring about a just government in material terms. Of course, the issues of taxes, the means of obtaining revenue, services and the value of services are all separate matters which, God willing, I will address at the appropriate time in future sermons.

Pakistan

Bhutto on Nuclear Weapons, India, Economic Issues

AU1904104494 Munich FOCUS in German 18 Apr 94 p 227

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by Gaby Neujahr; place and date not given: "We Do Not Want To Build Nuclear Weapons"]

[Text] [Neujahr] In the election campaign you promised prosperity and economic growth. How do you intend to keep this promise?

[Bhutto] This is our biggest problem. When I assumed office, the economy was in a desolate state. The budget deficit was high, the public sector inflated, the social sector neglected, and the infrastructure underdeveloped.

The top priority is to stimulate the economy. From July to December we reduced the trade deficit by $260 million, foreign investment increased by 54 percent, and our foreign currency reserves rose from $200 million to $1.2 billion.

[Neujahr] How do your ambitious plans fit in with a defense budget that swallows up 50 percent of the overall budget?

[Bhutto] I would like to make one thing clear: Pakistan has never put 50 percent of its budget into defense. We have always spent between 25 and 27 percent on defense. Over recent years the expenditure has even declined a little, in contrast to the rising defense budget in India.

It is our top priority to improve the people's economic situation.

[Neujahr] Your relationship with neighboring India continues to be tense. Talks to settle the conflict over Kashmir have not yet brought a solution.

[Bhutto] First of all, India must reduce its policy of oppression in the Indian part of Kashmir so as to create a favorable climate for the negotiations.

If we do not make progress in bilateral negotiations then, both countries should consider other ways and mediation by a third party.

[Neujahr] When the Kashmir conflict escalated in 1990, U.S. President Bush was narrowly able to prevent nuclear war between India and Pakistan. Does Pakistan want to establish itself as a nuclear power?

[Bhutto] We do not want to become a nuclear state. We are against the proliferation of nuclear weapons, because they endanger peace and security.

Our nuclear program must be viewed from the proper perspective. The use of nuclear energy and the peaceful use of nuclear science are important for our economic development. We want to use the power of the atom only peacefully and not build any weapons.

[Neujahr] Will you sign the Nonproliferation Treaty?

[Bhutto] We are willing to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty together with India. We can accept the safety checks by the IEA (International Energy Agency) in all nuclear facilities in Pakistan and India.

However, we do not accept any conditions that apply only to Pakistan and leave out India, which has just been testing nuclear weapons.

[Neujahr] In 1990 you were driven from office with insults and outrage. You were accused of corruption and of abuse of office. Have these accusations been clarified?

[Bhutto] At that time more than a dozen accusations were made against my husband and myself and these were dealt with by summary courts. No court found any proof of the accusations. Almost all the accusations have been thrown out.

[Neujahr] How fragile is your multiparty coalition?

[Bhutto] There are no problems, neither rifts nor trenches.

[Neujahr] What kind of influence have the fundamentalist Islamic parties?

[Bhutto] The term "fundamentalist" comes from the West and is linked with other associations there. Islam teaches tolerance and peaceful coexistence with other religions.

We have had religious parties since 1947 but they are of little importance in the National Assembly. At the elections in 1993 the Islamic Front, which consists of Jamaat-e-Islami and other religious parties, won only three out of 200 seats. The people in Pakistan do not want to entrust these groups with any political power.

Sharif Voices 'Concern' Over Talks on Nuclear Issue

BK1604122794 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—PML [Pakistan Muslim League] president Mian Nawaz Sharif expressed serious doubts about

the real outcome of the recent talks between the US and the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government on the nuclear issue.

Demanding the details of the nuclear inspection talks on Friday the PML chief said media reports had strengthened the suspicion in this regard as the US declared that its objective was to achieve non-proliferation in South Asia by forcing Pakistan to rollback and cap its nuclear programme.

He said since the US Deputy Secretary of State declared these talk as "complete success" therefore it was legitimate to ask about the details of these talks, adding, a further cause of concern is the announcement by both sides that in the future deliberations on achieving the American objectives would be pursed through quiet and secret diplomacy".

Former prime minister pointed out that the joint communique issued at the end of these talks failed to mention the Indian nuclear and ballistic missile programme which is a real threat to the security of the region, adding," there has been no reference to a regional approach on the nuclear issue.

Nawaz Sharif expressing his concern over the "quiet diplomacy" being talked about in the context of the nuclear programme said, "like the rest of his countrymen I have certain apprehension that under the garb of this quiet diplomacy the PPP government would damage national security as it did by providing help to Rajiv Gandhi on on the Sikh issue". He said that help came to light almost five years after the event when Benazir herself confessed it recently and perhaps it was also a part of the PPP's quiet diplomacy of that period.

Criticising Benazir Bhutto he alleged, "since the entire nation knows that she is a security risk we have every right to question her motives in pursuing 'quiet diplomacy' which could end up similar to the secret support to Rajiv Gandhi on the Sikh issue".

Highlighting the importance of Pakistan's nuclear programme he said there is broad national consensus on the nuclear issue and the PPP would not be allowed to compromise on this issue.

Terming the nuclear issue as a sacred trust and as a deterrent against foreign aggression he said Pakistan's consistent commitment was viewing the nuclear issue in a regional perspective with an even-handed approach that links the core security question like Kashmir with the nuclear issue.

He warned that any reversal of this position would amount to rolling back the nuclear programme and the national consensus. He asked the PPP government to dispel apprehensions and doubts it should categorically the nation about its real position on the nuclear issue. [sentence as published]

However, he said the PML will not allow any compromise on the nuclear issue.

Comments on Nuclear Program

BK1704092194 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 Apr 94 p 1

[By Salman Mahmood]

[Text] Narowal—PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz] chief Nawaz Sharif Saturday called upon the United States to mind its own nuclear programme before asking Pakistan to allow an inspection of its facilities.

Addressing the District Bar here, Nawaz suspected the claims of US Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott that his visit to Pakistan was a complete success. "If they want to peep in our nuclear programme, they should first mind their own nuclear programme," he said.

He said US officials had also met him "but I told them that we want friendly relations only and would not beg for aid".

Pointing out that India was far ahead of Pakistan in the production of conventional weapons, he said the country's nuclear programme was the only deterrence to India.

Rejecting the capping of the country's nuclear programme in exchange of F-16 aircraft, he feared that the F-16s would be of little use once the nuclear programme was capped.

He also warned that the inspection of the nuclear facilities was tantamount to accepting restrictions at every stage of development of the programme.

Condemning the rollback of the Motorway project, he asked Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto not to cancel the programme only because it was started during his government. He said [Uzbekistan] President Islam Karimov had also expressed his concern over the cancellation of the project and said he would not be keen to expand ties if Benazir was not interested in boosting mutual relations.